

THERE WILL
BE SIGNS
IN THE
THE **SUN,**
MOON,
AND
THE **STARS**

LUKE 21:25





The First Sunday of Advent

Saturday, November 30 , 2024 5:00pm
Sunday, December 01, 2024 9:00am

Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

PRELUDE

"Come, Emmanuel"

Jubilation

GATHERING

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"The Song was with God"

Hans Peterson

$\text{♩} = 100$

At the start the song was God and the
In the dark there was the song. It be -
Lead us to the man - ger where !

Use sustain pedal throughout

song it was with God. In - to har - mo -
gan for all to sing. Its mel - o - dy was
love, the song is born. And through the deep - est

ny, all life came to be;
love; it rang out clear a - bove;
night, we'll join with the light

a song was sung in - to the si - lence.
it rang through fear in - to the emp - ty.
to shine with your e - ter - nal pres - ence.

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.

FIRST SUNDAY - *The Wonder of Christmas*

Candle Lighting

Today we light the **first candle**. The first candle reminds us that the season of Advent is a time of unspeakable wonder. As we begin our Advent journey, let us stand amazed at the promise God has fulfilled, the love God has shown, and the joy God has given through the birth of Christ

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time to remember the wonders of our faith.

God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

Advent is a time to be amazed at God's wondrous love.

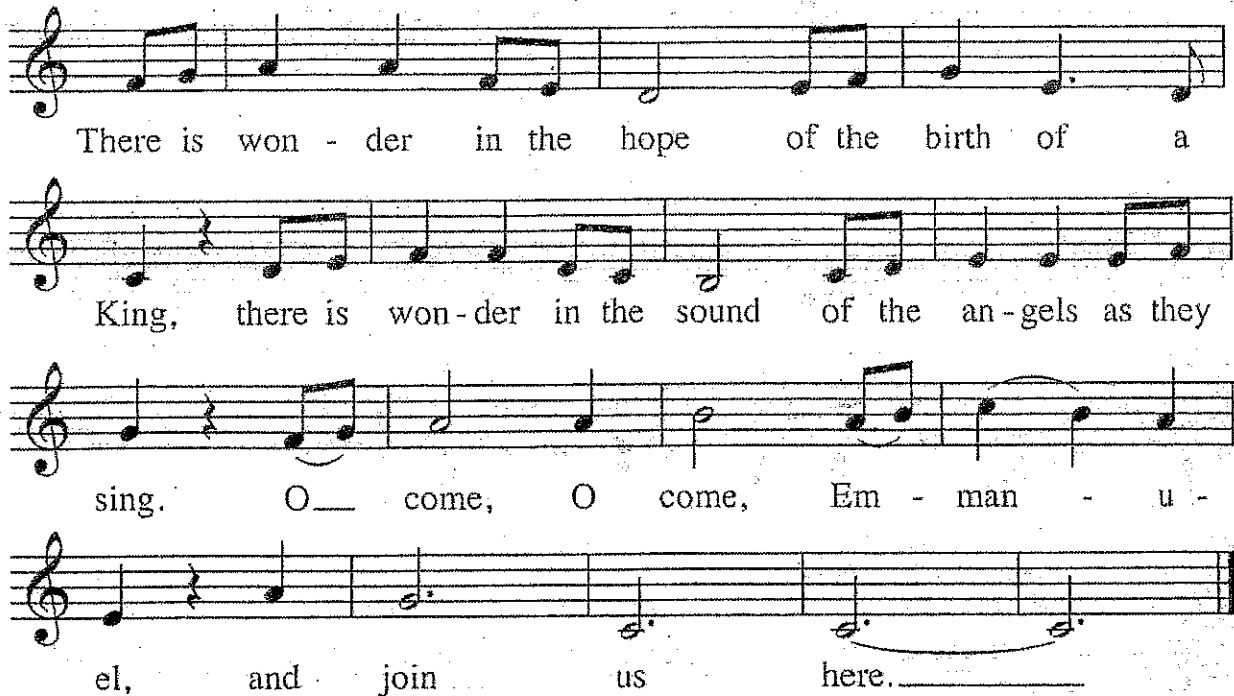
God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

Advent is a time to retrace our past, and reclaim the hope of our future.

God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

Advent is a time to be awed by God's unfolding plan for creation.

God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day
long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A reading from First Thessalonians.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.

¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Help Us O Lord"

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 90. The score consists of two systems of staves. The first system contains the first two lines of the acclamation, and the second system contains the next two lines. Chord symbols are placed above the staves: D, Dmaj7, D7, G, Em7, G/D, and A. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Help us O Lord to hear your word. O- pen our hearts to

feel your word. Give us the strength to live your word each day.

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GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

ANTHEM

“Be the Light”

Jubilation

CREED (5:00 pm)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HOLY BAPTISM (9:00 am)

Brooks Allan Johnson

ELW pg 227

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

Each prayer petition will conclude, "Lord, in your mercy,"

The congregation responds, "hear our prayer."

SHARING OF THE PEACE

THE OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

"Help Us Oh Lord"

vv. 1 & 3

$\text{♩} = 108$ Em C D Em

Help us, oh Lord, to do what is right and wise.
Teach us to live your king - dom come here on earth.
of - fer in joy what you first to us gave:

Am C D

Help us to see our bro - thers' needs that are in dis - guise.
O - pen our lives to treat each per - son with e - qual worth.
Our - selves, our time, the ver - y things that our hands have made.

Em B7

Re - Help us, oh Lord, to feel the
mind us we're fam - i - ly; we're
Re - ceive them all now, this is our



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OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name.

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At the end of the ages your Son, Jesus, came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

COMMUNION SONG "Lamb of God"

$\text{♩} = 100$ Eb (D) (guitar: capo 1) Bbm/G (Am/F#) Ab (G)

Lamb of God,
Bread of Life,
Prince of Peace,
Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the

Eb/G (D/F#) AbMaj7 (GMaj7) Gm7 (F#m7)

1, 2, 3 C7 (B7) Eb (D) F (E) F7 (E7) Bb7 (A7)

world: have mer - cy on us.

4 C7 (B7) Eb (D) F (E) F7 (E7) Bb7 (A7) Eb (D)

world: grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

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DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord's table. Please follow the directions of the pastors to receive communion. Both wine and grape juice are available for communion. The grape juice is the darker color in the middle of the tray. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion will receive a blessing. Those who are worshiping with us online are invited to have bread and wine or juice available for worship, and we will commune you at the end of communion.

COMMUNION ANTHEMS "Light Shines in the Darkness" Jubilation
"We Will Wait"

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us

with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.
Amen.

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

"Messiah"

$\text{♩} = 110$

Someone's shouting from the des - ert.
 Someone's shouting from the cit - y.
 Someone's shouting I am brok - en.

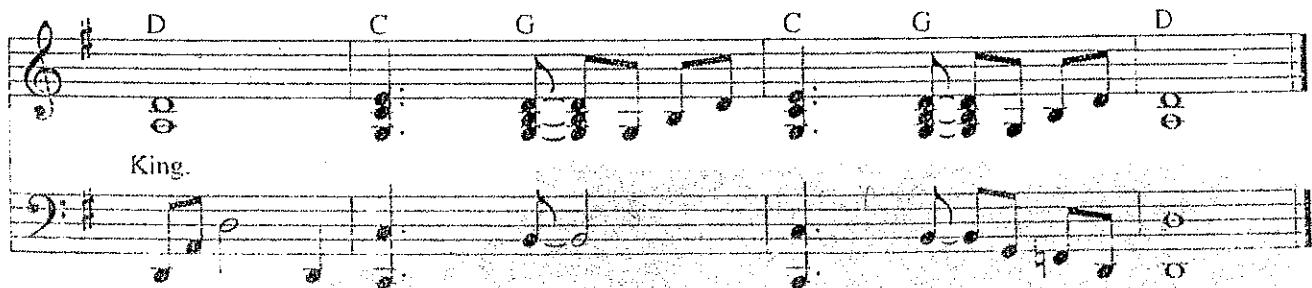
Someone's shouting from the sea.
 I am young. — I am cold.
 Someone's shouting make me whole.

Someone's shouting from the mountain.
 Someone's shouting from the country.
 Someone's shouting come and change me.

Someone's shouting from the val - ley. Mes -
 I am lone - ly. I am old.
 Someone's shouting save my soul.

si ah, come and be our King.

Mes - si ah, come and be our



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7

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.





THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SHARE IN OUR WORSHIP

SATURDAY	5:00 pm Worship Service
Ushers	Scott and Lori Rochau
Reader	Scott Rochau
Communion Assistant	Lori Rochau
Counters	<i>Not determined at the time of printing</i>

SUNDAY	9:00 am Worship Service
Ushers	Alexis Yanke
Reader	<i>Not determined at the time of printing</i>
Communion Assistant	Alexis Yanke
Counters	<i>Not determined at the time of printing</i>

Choir Director	Susan Becker
Organist	Teri Wittkowski and Susan Becker
Jubilation Leader	Neal Becker
Online Streaming Crew	Lucas Golinghorst, Scott LaPlante, & Kevin Zidarich

Real Worries, Real Hope

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.” With these words, often invoked at the table of holy communion, the church proclaims “the mystery of faith” (*ELW*, p. 110). At communion, we remember the good story of Jesus’ death and resurrection. But there is more! We also look forward to a time yet to be.

Thoughts of the future can inspire hopefulness for the promise of good things to come. Yet looking ahead can also conjure worries about what we do not know, or a sense of foreboding about what is out of our control. It’s hard not to hear in Jesus’ references to nature a warning about the dramatic effects of climate change. We inhabit a world in which ordinary signs that used to reliably mark the change of seasons are shifting. So when he talks about the trees sprouting leaves as a sure sign that summer is near, the image may leave us unsettled. In recent times, trees in some places have started budding when meteorological spring and summer are still months away. How will the trees respond when frost comes again? How is the church to respond in times such as these? Will the fig tree bloom on time this year?

Jesus’ parable of the fig tree comes smack-dab in the middle of some very disturbing news. Jesus offers an image of hope amid circumstances that seem all but hopeless. He talks of new growth even while what is old and familiar is passing away. Much like Jesus’ parable, the season of Advent invites the church to hold together these multiple, seemingly contradictory realities. We are called to rise up with courage and hope as we anticipate Jesus coming to us, without ignoring the weight of the world or neglecting our very real concerns. Jesus gathers us to the table where we remember his death but also his resurrection, where we pray for the world and also anticipate God’s redemption of all things.

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Senior Pastor Carrie La Plante Pastor Heather Geest

Worship: Saturday 5 pm Sunday 9 am

Telephone: (563) 285-4501 Email: faitheldridge@netins.net



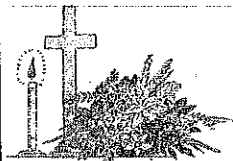
GRACE - GIFTED FAITH - LIFTED
CALLED TO SHARE, SEEK AND SERVE CHRIST.

The First Sunday of Advent
November 30 & December 1, 2024

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Today we gather to celebrate God's love and grace as revealed to us through Jesus Christ. For those that might be interested in knowing more about the ministries and activities of the congregation there are some printed materials available for you to take. The materials are located on the counter just inside the east entrance of this building. You can also find more information through the church website at faithlutheranelldridge.com.

CHILDREN are always welcome in worship. Special children's bulletins are available for their use.

VISITOR? CHANGE OF ADDRESS? INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES? HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST? Please feel free to complete the information card located in front of you next to the hymnals and pass the card to the outer aisle during announcements and an usher will pick them up during the call to worship.



Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar this weekend are given by the Johnson Family in celebration of the baptism birthdays of Elliott and Everett.

If you are interested in providing altar flowers, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex, or by using the link on our web site, www.faithlutheranelldridge.com



Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people and all who are in need in our prayers.

Ann Kuehl
Kathy Stoltz
Steve Mixdorf
Henry Storjohann
Dan Anderson
Jim Schneider
Gary Oerman

Carolyn Dannatt
Judy Koehler
Brienne Tallyn
Ed Stoltz
Kim Pierce
Barb Conklen
Pete Lau

Marilyn
Kelly
Shawn
Tim
Joyce
James



During the Sunday, December 1, worship service, we welcome to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Brooks Allan Johnson, the son of Connor and Sarah Johnson. Brook's sponsors are Ben and Morgan Johnson.

The rose on the altar is given in celebration of Books' baptism in loving memory of Mary House, Maddie Mess, and Jackie Snyder.



Ushers and those interested in becoming Ushers...

The Ushers have a important role in the safety and security of our church. Part of our safety plan requires quarterly training for the Ushers. The next Training will be held on **Sunday, December 1 @10:15 am** in the Sanctuary. **Contact Tom Bauer at (563) 505-5776 for more information.**

Mark your calendars to attend this year's Christmas cantata, "Sing with the Angels," which will be presented by People of Praise and Friends, on Sunday, December 8, at the 9:00 a.m. worship service. The cantata is a delightful telling of the Christmas story from the vantage point of angels. Angels are referenced throughout the scriptures and play a major role in the story of Christ's birth---from Gabriel's appearance to Mary, to the glorious scene of angels filling the heavens singing "Gloria in excelsis Deo." You'll hear some well-known Christmas carols, along with some newly composed music, and you'll also be treated to some beautiful chime music performed by Resounding Joy prior to the cantata. Come join us, and enjoy this annual musical tradition.



WOMEN OF FAITH COOKIES & BRUNCH



Everyone is invited to an Advent Brunch on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at 9:30am. We will be serving breakfast casseroles, pastries, fruit, coffee and tea. After the brunch we will be preparing around 30-35 plates of cookies for our shut-ins and those needing some TLC. If you would like to donate cookies for this project, you may leave them in the kitchen prior to December 14 or bring them with you to the brunch. For planning purposes there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.



Faith Welcomes Christmas Brass Quartet



On Sunday December 15, our brass quartet returns to play many of your favorite Christmas carols before, during, and after the service. Come and enjoy the sounds of Advent and Christmas!



Sunday School Children's Program

The Sunday School Christmas program will be on **Sunday, December 15, at 9:00 am**. We will practice during Sunday School on November 24 and December 8. We will not have Sunday School on December 1 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend.

Sunday School will be on Christmas break December 22 and 29. We will resume on Sunday, January 5, with our Winter Rally Day and Congregational Breakfast!



Congregational
Breakfast

Join us on **Sunday, December 15**, for our monthly **Congregational Breakfast** following the 9 am worship service. It is our hope that these intergenerational congregational breakfasts will be an opportunity for us to grow in faith and in relationship with one another.



If you wish to contribute toward Christmas poinsettias that will decorate the altar area this year, please list your name and the name(s) of those you wish to honor on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex area, or online using the link on our website. We are asking for a contribution of \$10.00 to help offset the cost of the plants. **Please indicate 'flowers' on your envelope so we know how to allocate the funds.** Names must be received by **December 15th** to be published in the Christmas Eve worship bulletin.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Christmas Special Offering

Our Christmas special offering will go to the ELCA Disaster Response— for Hurricanes Helene +Milton relief. Council chose ELCA disaster response since 100% of the money given goes to the disaster and ELCA provides longtime support after the disaster has occurred. More information can be found at: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Our-Impact/Hurricane-Response>



Help Needed
at Christmas
Worship

We are looking for Ushers, Readers and Communion assistants to serve during December worship services. Please check the sign up sheet on the bulletin board or on our website to sign up.

Thank you for helping with worship!



November 23 & 24: 5:00 pm: 43, 9:00 am: 83, Online: 24, Total: 150.

Saturday, November 30	5:00 pm	Jubilation Worship In Sanctuary & Online
	6:00 pm	Private Event in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, December 1	9:00 am	Jubilation Worship
	10:15 am	Fellowship
	10:15 am	Sunday School
	10:15 am	Usher Training
Monday, December 2	<i>Office Closed</i>	
	6:00 pm	Lion's Club Meeting
Tuesday, December 3	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Food Pantry
	6:30 pm	VFW
Wednesday, December 4	5:00 pm	Confirmation Meal
	5:30 pm	Confirmation Conversations
	6:00 pm	Cantata Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	People of Praise
	7:00 pm	Youth Group
	7:00 pm	Resounding Joy
Thursday, December 5	1:30 pm	Food Pantry Board Meeting
	6:30 pm	Team Night
	7:30 pm	Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, December 6	9:30 am	Food Pantry
	1:30 pm	Cinnamon Roll Baking Starts
Saturday, December 7	<i>Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser</i>	
	5:00 pm	Worship In Sanctuary & Online
Sunday, December 8	<i>Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser</i>	
	9:00 am	Worship w/Cantata
	10:15 am	Fellowship
	10:15 am	Sunday School



Pastor Carrie and Pastor Heather are available for Pastoral Care, but we need your help to know when and where that is needed. Please contact us at the church office **Tuesday thru Friday, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm** at **(563) 285-4501**. For after-hour emergencies, please contact **Pastor Carrie at (641) 275-1326** or **Pastor Heather at (563) 639-9606**.