



Welcome to Hope

SUNDAYS

8:00 & 10:30AM—Worship
9:15AM—Family Bible Hour
4:00PM—Spanish Worship w/Communion

ADVENT WEDNESDAYS

4:30PM—Traditional Worship
5:15PM—Fellowship Dinner
6:30PM—Family Worship

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“Anchored in Christ, Empowered by the Spirit, Connecting People to Jesus”

We are glad you are taking the time to worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with us this weekend! We pray God’s blessings on your worship and time spent among us at Hope Lutheran Church! We ask you to please take the time to fill in the Friendship pad (be sure to give us your name and address) and feel free to indicate any prayer concerns on the reverse side of the pad. We are a “Family-Friendly Church” and encourage the participation of children in our worship. However, we realize there are times when children can become disruptive to other worshipers, and for that reason there is a cry room located in the back of the church for your use. Children’s worship bags are available in the narthex for your use during the service (see an usher or elder). Please return the bag following the service to the “Worship Bag Tree.” We encourage you to join us for any and all activities at Hope in the week ahead!

IMPORTANT NOTES: *for the sanctity of our worship and the benefit of those around you, please refrain from excessive talking in the narthex and sanctuary, and turn off all cell phones, pagers, etc. Please time entrances and exits during congregational singing to minimize distraction to our worshipping community. Following our worship, please make every effort to leave God’s House just as you found it. Please do not bring coffee, cans of soda or bottled water into the sanctuary for your use before or even during the service. Also, please be sure to remove any “used” tissues from the pews or hymnal racks. Your help in keeping God’s house neat and clean will most certainly be appreciated! Thank you!*

Hope: Anchored in Christ



Please turn off or silence your cell phone and NO food or drinks in the Sanctuary.

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Activities This Week at Hope:

Sunday 12/16	8:00	Worship w/Communion
	9:15	Family Bible Hour (<i>snacks: open</i>)
	10:30	Worship w/Communion
	12:00	Rehearsal: Christmas Program
	4:00	Spanish Worship w/Communion
Monday 12/17	9:00	Quilting
	6:30	Choir
Wednesday 12/19	1:30	Prayer Shawl Ministry
	4:30	Advent Traditional Worship (<i>Sanctuary</i>)
	5:15	Fellowship Dinner (<i>Host: Music Ministry</i>)
	5:30	Bell Choir
	6:30	Advent Family Worship (<i>Fellowship Hall</i>)
Thursday 12/20	10:30	Bible Study
Friday 12/21	5:45	Cast Dinner: Christmas Program
	6:30	Dress Rehearsal: Christmas Program
Sunday 12/23	9:15	Christmas Program: Carol & the Belles
	10:30	Hope Family Christmas Brunch
	4:00	Spanish Worship w/Communion

Worship Attendance / Communion:

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Advent Worship: 6:30: 10

Advent Worship: 6:30: 51

Sunday, December 9, 2018:

Worship: 8:00: 73 10:30: 107

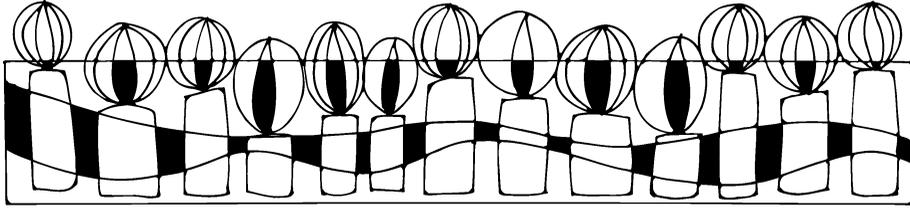
FBH: Adults: 54 Youth: 0 Children: 0

Spanish Worship: 4:00: 24/12

Offerings—General Fund: \$9,092.50

Stewardship Perspective:

Phil. 4:5b-6 – “The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Wouldn’t you like to be free from worry and anxiety? Isn’t it worry and anxiety that often keep us from living the generous life God has called us to? St. Paul contrasts anxiety with prayer, supplication, and thanksgiving in making our requests known to God. In other words, when you are tempted to anxiety and worry, pray to the Lord with a thankful heart and pour out your supplications before Him.



Third Sunday In Advent

December 16, 2018

AS WE GATHER

"Rejoice in the Lord always!" may seem like quite the daunting task in today's world. Yes, there are moments of joy, but there are also moments of tragedy and devastation. It is not possible to be always joyful. But rejoicing is not a task that we have to add to our to-do list. And we are not called to rejoice in everything always. We are called to rejoice in the Lord always. The God who rejoices over us with gladness and calms us with His love brings us into a relationship with Him that is filled with rejoicing at His presence and providence.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE AND MEDITATION *"Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng"*

The sanctuary is a place of meditation and preparation for worship. Therefore, as the prelude begins, we cease our conversations and quiet our hearts to converse silently with God.

OPENING HYMN

"Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng"

LSB 813; vs. 1, 3, 5, 7

INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C: Amen.

P: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

C: He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!

P: Rejoice in the Lord always!

C: For He will rejoice over us with gladness.

P: Again, I say, rejoice!

C: He will quiet us with His love.

P: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet.

C: Righteousness and peace kiss each other.

P: In Christ, the blind receive their sight, the lame walk,

C: the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear.

P: In Christ, the dead are raised up,

C: and the poor have the good news preached to them.

P: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

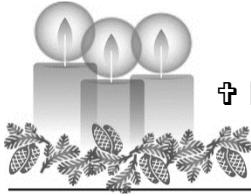
C: He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!

P: In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. While today is a celebration of joy, we know that on our own, we would be entirely devoid of joy. Without Christ's intervention and incarnation, we would be lost in torment forever. We approach God in reverence, mindful of how unworthy we are to be in God's presence. (*Silence for reflection.*) Heavenly Father,

C: we confess that we have doubted Your Son and His power. We have been filled with anxiety and stress. Revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You.

P: The Lord God is in Your midst, the mighty One who will save. In Christ's death and resurrection, God withdrew His wrath and put away His burning anger. He rejoices over you with singing and quiets your anxious hearts by His love. Hear these words of forgiveness, for they are from Christ Himself: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. "You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin."



✠ **LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH** ✠

P: On the four Sundays in Advent, we light a new candle each week. We mark the four candles with these four words: hope, peace, joy, and love.

Jesus Christ is the hope of the nations.

C: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we hope.

P: Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace.

C: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we rest.

P: Jesus Christ is the source of all joy.

C: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we rejoice.

HYMN

"The King Shall Come to Bring Us Joy"

(tune: LSB 348)

**The King shall come to bring us joy, To silence all our hate.
He comes in power to destroy Both sin and Satan's weight.**

**We light this candle and rejoice That God has sent His Son!
We pray and praise and raise our voice With thanks for all He's done.**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Christ, and come,

**C: that in Your presence we may rejoice and rest in the peace that
only You can give,**

P: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God,

C: now and forever. Amen.

10:30 SPECIAL MUSIC *"Five Days Journey to Bethlehem"* Jubilation Singers





✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20 (p.790)

(The Lord will rejoice over you with gladness.)

L: Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; He has cleared away your enemies.

C: The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

L: On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

C: The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;

L: He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love;

C: He will exult over you with loud singing.

L: I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Philippians 4:4-7 (p.982)

(Rejoice in the Lord always.)

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE*"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"**LSB 803; vs. 1 & 3*

**Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!**

Text: Public domain

HOLY GOSPEL*Luke 7:18-28 (p.863)*

("The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.")

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

C: (Sung) Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." ²⁴When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'" ²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord!

C: (Sung) Praise to You, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!"*

LBW 37



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near,"
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the earth -
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with par -
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry And the world



we hear the cry. "Cast a - way the works of
bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all sloth dis -
don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of
is wrapped in fear, He will shield us with his



dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
mer - cy And with words of love draw near.

5 Honor, glory, might, dominion To the Father and the Son
With the everliving Spirit While eternal ages run!

SERMON

"GOT Joy...GIVE Joy"
Rev. Dean Pfeffer

Philippians 4:4

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under

P: Wise Father, Your will is done without our prayer. Turn our hearts to You, so that we trust Your wise counsel in all things and trust Your good and gracious providence in our daily lives even as You bring us to eternal life. Open our hearts to all Your promises, that we may know Your will and receive Your gifts in the Gospel and the Sacraments in true faith. Give us strength and eyes of opportunity O Lord, to go into our community to family and friends with great boldness to share Your love and invite, invite, invite others to join us as we come before Your manger bed this Christmas. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Kind Father, Your Son gave bread to the hungry, sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf; He made the lame to walk and cleansed lepers; He raised the dead and preached Good News to the poor. Help again Your suffering people — the hungry, the poor and unemployed, the sick, the dying, the grieving and all who are anxious of heart especially *Frank Dahlke, Virginia Moore, Mark Stefanos, Libby Voigtman, and Chuck Wigand*. Graciously give them all that they need for their well-being, give them ears to hear the Good News of life and salvation, and quiet their fears with Your love. Lead us to receive Your daily gifts — our daily bread — with thankful hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Father, forgive us our sins and cleanse us from unrighteousness. Soften the hearts of those who reject Your Word, and renew those whose faith is faltering. Open our ears to Your call of repentance and to Your promise of mercy. Grant us to come to Your table in true faith, gladly receiving Christ's body and blood and the forgiveness He promises. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Father in heaven, keep far from us Satan and all his wickedness and lies. Give us eyes to see evil and flee from it to Your Son, who casts out demons and restores those who have fallen. In our last hour, bring us to Yourself in peace and safety. Grant that in this day and the coming week, Your Spirit would guide us in safety and godliness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

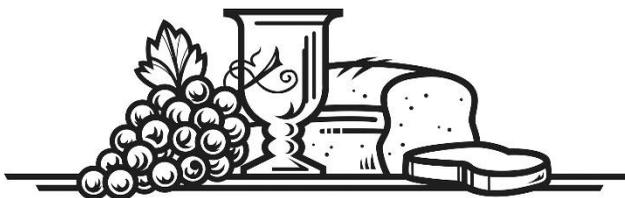
P: Heavenly Father you are the God of restoration and new life. Thank you that you forgive our sin and set us on a straight and level path as we anticipate the coming of your Son Jesus our Lord in this Advent Season. Many remain in darkness and do not know the hope, love, peace, and grace that are our privilege because we confess you the One, True and Living God. Concordia New York and all of our University System schools educate those who will

shine the Light of Your Son in the many dark places of this world through their vocations. Bless all our Concordia institutions, Lord, with new life. Restore our sense of resolve and help us to rededicate ourselves to the education and consecration of people who will serve You in faithfulness and encourage others to do the same. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Father, into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever who taught us to pray:

C: 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.



† HOLY COMMUNION †

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right...praising you and singing:

(tune: LSB 357)

O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, the
God of heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, Both heav'n and earth Your

glo - ry show. Ho - san - na sing un - to the Lord.
 Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
 Shall come to thee. O Is - ra - el!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We listen again to the very words spoken by Jesus Christ in the upper room, "take and eat, this is my body... take and drink, this is my blood." We prepare to receive what Jesus has promised to share with us, His very presence. As we eat this bread and drink this wine, Christ nourishes us, forgives us and strengthens us with His presence.

AGNUS DEI

(tune: LSB 357)

O Christ, the ho - ly Lamb of God, who
 takes a - way the whole world's sin. Have mer - cy on us
 now, we pray, and grant Your heav'n - ly peace with - in.
 Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
 Shall come to thee. O Is - ra - el!

(The congregation may be seated.)

COMMUNION STATEMENT

If you desire to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please remember that the Sacrament of Holy Communion is available to those who: ¹Are baptized AND instructed in the Christian faith; ²Examine themselves in a manner appropriate to adult maturity and recognize their own need for forgiveness; ³Believe that the Crucified and Risen Lord is truly present in, with and under the bread and wine; ⁴Believe that in this sacrament God gives us forgiveness of sins and strengthening of faith; ⁵Accept their place of responsibility in the whole church on earth. If this is your sincere belief, then joyfully share this sacrament with us. If this is not your belief, please remain seated for a time of prayer on the many blessings God has given you. If you have any questions, please see a pastor or an elder. Please remember the words of St. Paul, "For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself." (1 Cor. 11:29) For those with dietary restrictions, a light-colored grape juice is also served in the center of the tray, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Note: During distribution, one of our pastors will be in the back of the church for a time of individual prayer with anyone desiring.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Arise, O Christian People"

LSB 354

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

LSB 515

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

NUNC DIMITTIS

(tune: LSB 357)



Lord, let Your ser - vant go in peace. Your
grac-ious word I now re - call. My eyes have seen sal-
va - tion here, glo - ry for Is - rael, light for all.

Refrain

Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

8:00 SPECIAL MUSIC *"Five Days Journey to Bethlehem"* Jubilation Singers 

CLOSING PRAYER

God, reignite the hearts of us all to have a passion for the Gospel. Teach our church to share the Gospel with others. Teach us to live as those who are true bearers of the good news of Jesus Christ. Remind us of our purpose. Convict us of our purpose. Empower us to live our purpose. In Jesus name. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

P: We are now entering the mission field!

C: 'Here am I! Send me!'

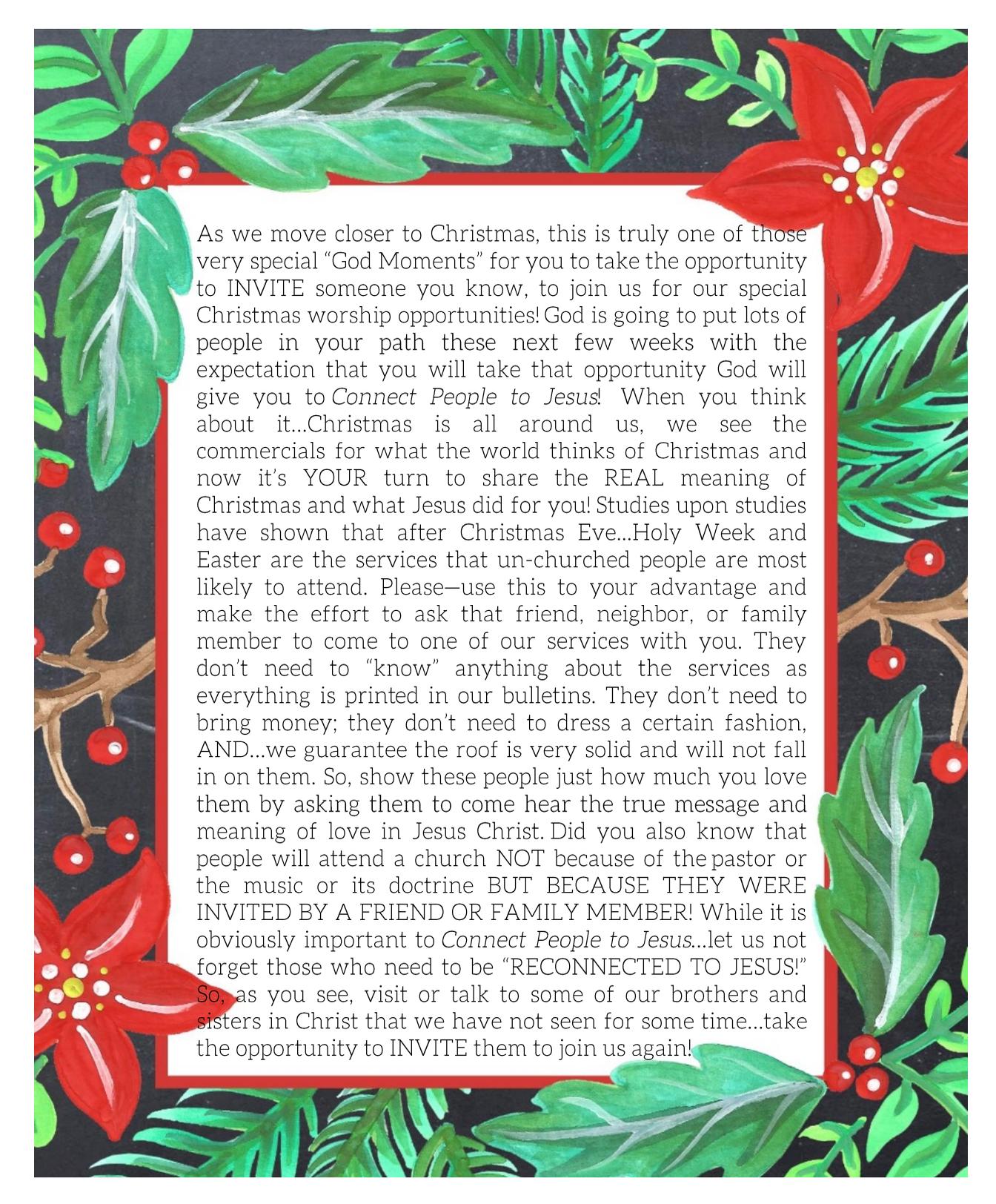
CLOSING HYMN

"Joy to the World"

LSB 387

10:30 POSTLUDE

"Joy to the World"



As we move closer to Christmas, this is truly one of those very special “God Moments” for you to take the opportunity to INVITE someone you know, to join us for our special Christmas worship opportunities! God is going to put lots of people in your path these next few weeks with the expectation that you will take that opportunity God will give you to *Connect People to Jesus!* When you think about it...Christmas is all around us, we see the commercials for what the world thinks of Christmas and now it’s YOUR turn to share the REAL meaning of Christmas and what Jesus did for you! Studies upon studies have shown that after Christmas Eve...Holy Week and Easter are the services that un-churched people are most likely to attend. Please—use this to your advantage and make the effort to ask that friend, neighbor, or family member to come to one of our services with you. They don’t need to “know” anything about the services as everything is printed in our bulletins. They don’t need to bring money; they don’t need to dress a certain fashion, AND...we guarantee the roof is very solid and will not fall in on them. So, show these people just how much you love them by asking them to come hear the true message and meaning of love in Jesus Christ. Did you also know that people will attend a church NOT because of the pastor or the music or its doctrine BUT BECAUSE THEY WERE INVITED BY A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER! While it is obviously important to *Connect People to Jesus...*let us not forget those who need to be “RECONNECTED TO JESUS!” So, as you see, visit or talk to some of our brothers and sisters in Christ that we have not seen for some time...take the opportunity to INVITE them to join us again!

Connecting Points

TODAY: we continue in this beautiful season of Advent. The season of Advent is comprised of the **four consecutive Sundays** leading up to Christmas. The theme of this season is to 1) prepare us to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior once again and, 2) remind us that we must be ready for that Day when our Lord returns. One of the symbols of the Advent season is the Advent wreath with its five candles. **Each week** another candle will be lit and on Christmas the Christ Candle (Center) is lit. Advent is a season of hope and anticipation. The color of the season is *BLUE*~ the color of both hope and anticipation.



ADVENT DEVOTIONALS: are in (and under) your mailbox **THIS MORNING** for the Advent season. These devotionals are produced by *Lutheran Hour Ministries*. **ALSO**, check out flgadistrict.org for daily devotions by our Circuit Visitors and Board of Directors. (Pastor Pfeffer's next devotion is scheduled for **December 18**).



INVITES ARE HERE: That's right, start thinking **NOW** whom you plant to invite to Hope's special Christmas opportunities. Again, we cannot emphasize enough that this is the time of year people who are either unchurched or de-churched are most open to your invitation to come to church. Be sure to take those opportunities that God WILL give you in the days ahead to share the real meaning of the season! After all, it's ALL about Jesus! Christmas worship invitations are available **TODAY & NEXT SUNDAY**.



REHEARSALS: for our annual Christmas program **continue TODAY**. Please meet in *Fellowship Hall* **immediately following 10:30 worship** for a quick lunch and then rehearsal will begin at **NOON**. Dress rehearsal will be on **Friday 12/21 at 6:30PM** (cast dinner at **5:45PM**).



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!: We are again putting together gift bags to be given to the children/youth on Christmas! As we like to keep the items a surprise, see *Liz Pfeffer* if you would like to purchase items or make a donation. You are a blessing....thank you!



MISS A SUNDAY?: You can listen to the messages from our **Sunday morning worship** by simply going to our website (hopeplantcity.com) and going to the DOWNLOADS tab—there you will our Sunday morning messages. Sermons are posted on **Monday mornings**.





FINAL MIDWEEK WORSHIP: for this Advent Season is **THIS WEDNESDAY!** If you have not joined us yet for one of these special services as we prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth, be sure to join us at either **4:30PM** (in the Sanctuary) or **6:30PM** (in Fellowship Hall), and don't forget to join us for dinner (**5:15-6:15**). Participating in these services is a GREAT way for you to prepare once again to celebrate the birthday of our King!



DO YOU KNOW GOD?: or perhaps you know OF Him...but maybe not ABOUT Him. Our **Thursday morning** Bible Class SERIES is "The God You May Not Know." Join us each **Thursday morning at 10:30AM** in the *Stephen Ministry* room to learn WHO God really is...All are welcome!

LOVE OFFERING:



We will receive a special love offering **NEXT SUNDAY following our morning worship** to support our *United Food Bank of Plant City*. In past years, this has been done as a part of our Children/Youth Christmas service. Please remember a special gift **next Sunday** to help those in our community less fortunate. **Last year** our food bank distributed OVER 1 MILLION pounds of groceries to those in need. Your prayers, gifts, and support are needed for this vital ministry in our community.



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: Please note that the church office will be open on **December 24th until NOON**. The office will be CLOSED on **December 25th** and be on **limited hours that week**.



PREPARING FOR THE NEW YEAR: On **December 30th**, there will be one morning worship service at **9:15AM** followed by an "Eve of New Year's Eve" congregational brunch. Please bring a dish to share! Family Bible Hour will resume on **January 6th**, and Hope Studies and Living Hope worship on **Wednesday, January 9th**.

INSTALLATION:



of those elected to serve on any of our ministry teams or as officers of our congregation for **2019**, will take place on **Sunday, January 6th at BOTH the 8:00 & 10:30 worship services**. We pray God's blessings as you begin (or continue) your ministry among us and give thanks to God for all who have served.



OUCH! We hate to mention it, but what goes up must come down. So, please plan ahead for **January 6th following the 10:30 worship service** when we will "undecorate" the sanctuary.

2019 FLOWER CHART: is now posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. As in the past, we are limited to 2 bouquets **per Sunday**. The cost is \$15.00 per bouquet. Flowers may be placed for birthdays, anniversaries, and simply to give God the glory! Be sure to sign up soon before your special day is taken. **Following the 10:30 worship**, flowers may be taken home, or you may leave them to be shared by our pastors on shut in visits or hospital calls.



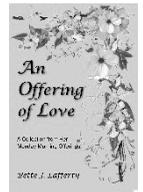
URGENT FOOD BANK NEED: Our *United Food Bank of Plant City* is in DIRE need of non-perishable food items (soups, vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, mac-n-cheese, etc.). Our shelves are getting bare. Please consider a special donation of groceries to the Food Bank. There is a BLUE barrel in the Narthex for you to place your donations. Also, at this time, our Food Bank is collecting turkeys so that others may be able to sit down to a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings like you and me. If you are willing to donate a turkey or two, just bring them down to the Food Bank **during the week**.



CHRISTIAN LOVE & SYMPATHY: to Hope members *Brad & Judy Landis* (stationed in *Belle Chasse, LA*) as they mourn the death of Brad's mother **this past weekend**. Please keep *Brad, Judy, Megan & Jacob* in your prayers during this time. Expressions of Christian sympathy can be sent to *Brad & Judy at 228 Yorktown Lane, Belle Chasse, LA 70037*.



AN OFFERING OF LOVE: Hope member *Bette J. Lafferty*, now living in *Boerne, Texas*, published her first book entitled: *An Offering of Love*; it is now available on *Amazon.com*. As *T.S. Eliot* said, "Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far they can go." Well, thank the Lord and *EA Book Publishing*, she did it. With the endorsement of *Debora M. Coty*, award-winning author of over 40 books, said regarding *Bette's* book, "A lovely way to start the day from one of my favorite people! *Bette* wrote her way into my heart years ago; I'm one of her biggest fans. I know this little book will become your go-to for inspiration."



NURSE NEEDED: The *Pregnancy Care Center of Plant City* is currently accepting applications for the position of *Registered Nurse*. If interested, please call our center at 813-759-0886. Resumes may be submitted to *Executive Director Sandi Nelson* at snelson@pccpc.net.



The Tampa Bay Lightning invites you to

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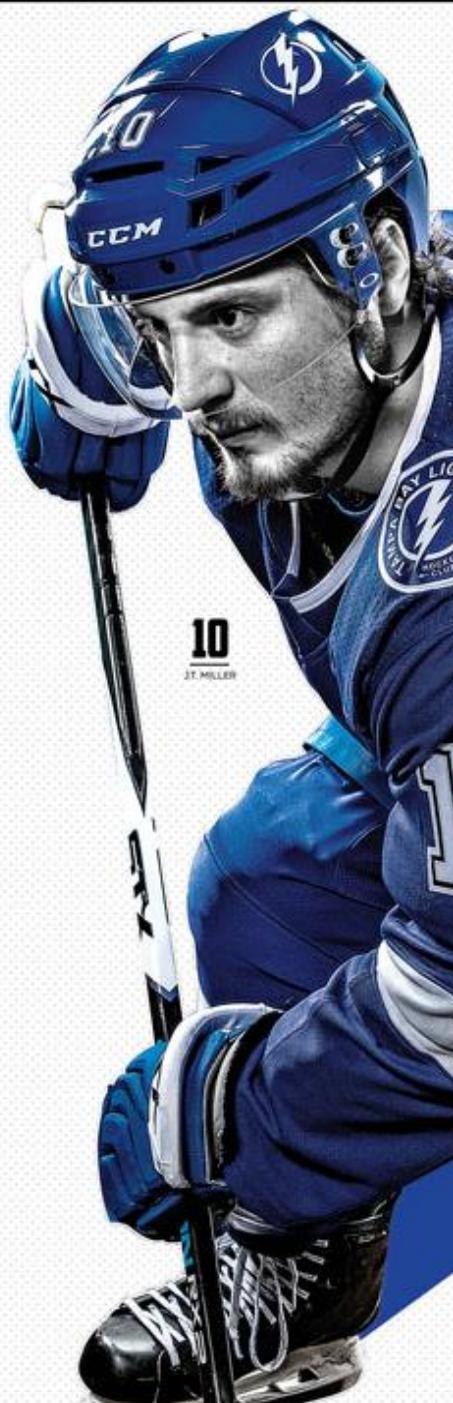
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or jgaluppi@amaliearena.com





Chrismons once again adorn the trees in our chancel thanks to the many hands who lovingly decorate our church and make it so warm and inviting. The word Chrismon is a contraction of the two words—Christ and Monogram. A Chrismon Tree decorated with symbols from Christian history tells a story of the true meaning of Christmas.

Shell—Signified the Baptism of Christ

Jerusalem Cross—A symbol of the Crusades

Descending Dove—Represents the Holy Spirit

Stylized Fish—Early Christians used the fish as an easily made and recognized symbol.

Sun—A symbol of the Son of Righteousness

Fleur de Lis—The flower of the virgin Mary

Butterfly—A symbol of New Life and The Resurrection

I.H.S.—The first three letters of Jesus in Greek.

Anchor Cross—An early symbol meaning steadfastness and hope

Shepherd's Crook—A cross, hung with Alpha and Omega to show that this staff refers to the Good Shepherd.

The Fish—Use of the Fish as a symbol for early Christians developed because the letters of the Greek word for fish, Ichthus, formed and acrostic on the phrase Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.

Three Entwined Circles—A symbol for the Holy Trinity

The Crown—A symbol of the Kingship of Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Chi Rho with Alpha and Omega—The Chi Rho is the oldest monogram of Christ. The Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, thus the beginning and end are symbolic.



More about our Trees

The two trees on the floor of the church are the Hope Family trees. These are the trees that hold the many beautiful Chrismons described left. These trees also have a Christmas ball with the name of a Hope Family member. Each family of Hope is represented by one of the clear balls on the trees. The trees by the altar are known as the: Sinners' tree (lectern side) and the Saints' tree (pulpit side).

The Sinners' tree is decorated with 33 red balls, to remind of the forbidden fruit of which God commanded Adam & Eve not to eat and also is the age of our Lord at the time of His death on the cross. The ribbon through the tree is a reminder to us of the serpent—Satan who tempted Adam & Eve to eat of the fruit.

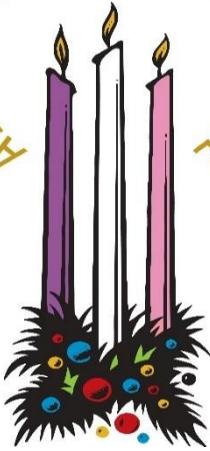
On the Saints' tree, you will find 33 white decorations representing the purity of our Lord. The three white streamers remind us of the grace we receive from our Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the lights are symbolic of Christ, who is the Light of the world.



HOPE'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
Sunday, December 23rd @ 9:15am

You won't want to miss this fab 50's Christmas story! ... Followed by our Hope Family Christmas Brunch

ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Sundays

- 8:00AM & 10:30AM – Worship
- 9:15AM – Family Bible Hour
- 4:00PM – Spanish Worship

Wednesdays

- 4:30PM – Traditional Worship
- 5:15PM – Fellowship Dinner
- 6:30PM – Family Worship

Christmas Worship

Sunday, December 23rd

- 9:15AM—Christmas Program
- 10:30AM—Christmas Brunch
- 4:00PM—Spanish Worship w/Communion

Christmas Eve, December 24th

- 6:30PM—Candlelight Worship
- 10:30PM—Candlelight Worship w/Communion

Christmas Day, December 25th

- 10:30AM—Christmas Worship w/Communion

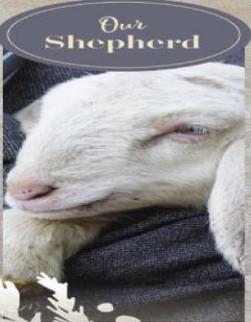


GOD WITH US

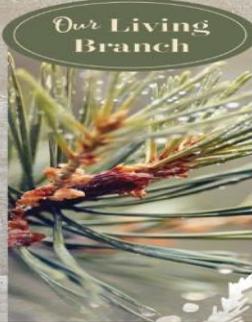
Our Potter



Our Shepherd



Our Living Branch



Our Guide



Advent Wednesdays

4:30PM — Traditional Worship | 5:15PM — Fellowship Dinner | 6:30PM — Family Worship

December 19: Our Living Branch (Isaiah 11:1)

God is with us as our Living Branch, who died and rose to give us eternal life.

Dinner Host: Music Ministry | Menu: Lasagna & Salad

*Menus subject to change.



Please join us...

Sunday, December 30

9:15AM—Worship w/Communion

10:30AM—New Year's Brunch

Pot-Bless

Please bring a breakfast-type dish to share.

Hosted by Hope's Fellowship Ministry Team



Family Bible Hour

Sundays at 9:15am

ADULTS

GOD WITH US: our study these next few weeks will be based on our Wednesday Advent Worship theme. In this study we will explore the biblical backgrounds of Christ as our Potter, Shepherd, Living Branch and Guide. This study will assist us to see that the Immanuel foretold and born so long ago is still present with us now.

Leader: Pastor Pfeffer

THE BOOK OF ROMANS: From Corinth, Paul wrote a letter to Christians in Rome, whom he had never met. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, this piece of ancient writing, The Letter of Paul to the Romans, has become the most influential letter in the world. Why? Because God knew Christians in every generation would live in similar places with colliding cultures and would need these words to guide their days. Join us in the study of God's Word in the book of Romans and find relevant answers to many of life's questions today. Meets in the Conference Room. *Leader: Gloria Warner*

HIGH SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL REAL WORLD: We live in a real world with very real problems. In the face of such "troubles," the Psalmist looks to our very real and very present God and we do, too. "God is our refuge and strength" (Psalm 46:1)! So, join us as we dive deeper into how our Real Present God provides us refuge and strength in the midst of all life's troubles. *Leader: Liz Pfeffer*

MIDDLE SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL SURVIVAL: Entering the world of middle school is scary and exciting. But with a little help from a book called The Middle School Survival Manual, it doesn't have to be overwhelming. The Lord Your God is with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:9). With this manual learn to: Give grades a boost, Make testing as easy as 1, 2, 3, Live your faith at school, and lots more! *Leader: Pastor Shea*

PRESCHOOL—GRADE 5

THE STORY: Children will experience God's great love as His story comes to life! 31 engaging lessons for preschoolers through elementary children are formatted around relatable Scripture references, memory verses, and Bible themes.

Leaders: Yolanda Heipp, Tracy MacDonald, Ellen Whitehurst

MAKE A
JOYFUL
Noise
TO THE
LORD,

ALL THE EARTH;
BREAK FORTH INTO
JOYOUS SONG
AND SING PRAISES.

PSALM 98:4, NRSV



YOUTH DATES

December 16—Deliver Shut-in bags w/Missions & Outreach

December 31—New Year's Eve Lock-IN, 8:00PM-8:00AM

Grades 6 through 12—friends are always welcome!
Contact Pastor Shea for more info: hopecpastorshea@gmail.com

The
Lutheran
Hour

can be heard EVERY Sunday morning at 7:30 on 540AM

Topics for this month:

December 23: "The King's Strength "

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A true king's strength is seen, not in vaults and arsenals, but in the loyalty of his people. We celebrate the birth of the King who won the victory, not by taxing his subjects and killing his enemies, but by serving, loving and dying for them. By his resurrection, He destroyed the power of sin and lends us strength to become His loyal subjects. (Luke 1:26-56)

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

SHUT-INS:

Andy Anderson Dorothy Maltzahn
 Diane Bates Liz Miller
 Frank Dahlke Mark Stefanos
 Bonnie Genrich Tom Thomas

LEADERS:

Pastor Dean & Liz Pfeffer Hope Staff Our Armed Forces
 Pastor Shea Pennington Hope's Ministries Our Nation
 LCMS Synod & District Our 1st Responders

Family and Friends of Hope

NEW REQUESTS:

Scarlett & Savannah Gembala mourning the death of their grandfather
 Chris Ivey father of Keaira Griffin's friend—hospitalized; serious health concerns
 Brad & Judy Landis & family mourning death of Brad's mother

CURRENT REQUESTS:

Beverly friend of Jesilynn Pfeffer—health concerns
 Frank Dahlke hospice
 Virginia Moore health concerns
 Stephanie Peart vertigo
 Yvonne Pfenning sister-in-law of Bryan Pfenning—health concerns
 Betty Sanyer friend of Mack & Sheila Goethe—broken bones
 Mark Stefanos health concerns
 Jim Sotrop friend of Mack & Sheila Goethe—eye surgery
 Brenda Stone health concerns
 Libby Voigtman health concerns
 Chuck Wigand recovering

BATTLING CANCER:

Bob Broshelle	Marcus Elam	Jean Marie Mactey	Abbey Sedlacek
Tom Battling	Alice Correia	Pat Mailloux	Judy Strait
Herb Bayer	Austin Dobbs	Mari	Jeannie Lee Taylor
Laura Blake	Ginnie Donaldson	Bruce McConnell	Rick Ward
CanDee Brandon	Casey Doyle	Mary Ann Pitre	Mr. Wells
John Brom	Jace Driggers	John Rademacher	Millie Wetz
Laura Brom	Kori Dunke	Alan Rauner	Heather Whitehurst

Serving in the Military (R—Reserves)

Zachary Allen	Stephen & Lorrie Daniell—R	Brad Landis	Derek Quackenbush
Alex Almaguer	Stephanie Enloe—R	Bobby Martin	Justin Rappa
Zachary Bennett	Joshua Gross	Aaron Morley	Ryan Sonnenberg
Matt Bracken	Erika Grosskopf	Stephen Olliff—R	Caleb Strand
Trevor Dahlke—R	Brandon Hastings	Donnie Pittman	Mike Szostkiewicz—R

Due to space limitation, prayer requests can only be listed for four weeks.



"Think of us in this way as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries."

1Corinthians 4:1

SERVING OUR LORD THIS SUNDAY (12/16/2018) ARE:

Bell Ringer	10:30/Jalyn Aigner
Acolyte	10:30/Nathan Gall
Lector	8:00/Tena Matthews; 10:30/Alex Drapp
Elder on Duty	8:00/Lonnie Bertsch; 10:30/Nick Trivunovich
Communion Assistant	8:00/Lonnie Bertsch; 10:30/Nick Trivunovich
Flowers	Howell family
Offerings	Wendell & Pam Lattz
Ushers	Team 3

8:00/Lonnie Bertsch,* Diane Bertsch, Tom Reagin;
10:30/ Stuart Howell,* Judy Adkins, Matt Finney, Jack Moberg

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by
Stuart & Sandy Howell in honor of Dawn's birthday*

SERVING OUR LORD THIS WEDNESDAY (12/19/2018) ARE:

Lector	4:30/John Koren; 6:30/Youth
Elder on Duty	6:30/Lonnie Bertsch

SERVING OUR LORD NEXT SUNDAY (12/23/2018) ARE:

Bell Ringer	9:15/Drew Chandler
Elder on Duty	9:15/Lonnie Bertsch
Flowers	Kemp family
Offerings	Alison Reaume & Cathie Warner
Ushers	Team 1

SERVING OUR LORD THIS MONTH OF DECEMBER:

Altar Guild	Yolanda Heipp
Nurse	Sally Kimbrell