



THE MESSENGER

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD (LCMS)

Rev. Trevor A. Mankin, Pastor
Rachel Robins, Office Administrator

DECEMBER 2019

Vol. 78 No. 11

Christmastide Greetings,

Back in 2005 a children's book, *The Elf on the Shelf: A Christmas Tradition* was first published and kicked off a new custom across the nation of placing elves in people's homes as "scouts elves" for Santa. Every night the elves would be moved about the house, creating a kind of hide-n-seek for the family.

This practices really caught on around the nation. There have now been movies about the elf, and he's even appeared in the Macy's Parade. As this is all in good fun, and I'm sure kids enjoy it.

However, I would like to start a new similar tradition this year at Messiah. Which you may wish to take into your homes, too. We are calling it **Mary and Joseph's Journey**. We will be encouraging the children of Messiah to follow Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem during the season of Advent.

A small statue of Mary and Joseph will be hidden around the church over the next several weeks. Clues about their whereabouts will be in the bulletin and shared after service each week. And the kids will be encouraged to find the statue and fill in its location on the map in the bulletin.

Here are the clues:

Week 1. When Jesus was a boy he still had to learn and, in this place, you, too, will find you will get your turn. (Sunday School Opening Room)

Week 2. A dip in the river will really make you shiver, but a dip in this water will make you His forever. (By the Baptismal Font)

Week 3. Sheep were on the hills, but at the inn there was no room, you can find the Holy Fam now in a little side room. (The Little Lambs Cry Room)

I hope you will find this new tradition an enjoyable one.

In addition to **Mary and Joseph's Journey**, after several requests we will also be adding a **Hymn Sing** prior to our Christmas Eve service. Starting around 6:00 pm you can come and sing some of your favorite Christmas Hymns, you don't need to stay for the whole hour, but it should be lots of fun.

Blessings on your Advent and Christmas,
Pastor Mankin

FROM THE OFFICE

THE NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE IS:

December 16, 2019

Please ensure your announcements/articles arrive at the church office by the date above if you would like them in the next Messenger. The Messenger deadline is the 3rd Monday of the month unless there is a holiday. Please place all messages and articles in the office mailbox located in the choir room or email them to office@messiahseattle.org.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Annual "Thank You" Gift to Church Staff

As we move beyond Thanksgiving and into a new church year, let's take a moment to be thankful for the faithful preaching, teaching and worship that we experience at Messiah. There are a number of workers in our church who make that possible. Messiah traditionally collects a monetary "thank you gift" for our dedicated church staff to present to them at our Christmas Eve service. I ask each of you to prayerfully consider contributing to these gifts. To do so, please place your gift in a designated envelope and put it in the offering bag or deliver it to the church office **by December 22nd**.

FROM THE ORGANIST

HYMNS AND WHY THEY ARE – Noel Channon

What is the oldest known hymn? Most historians point to the "Hurrian Hymn No. 6," an ode to the goddess

Nikkal that was composed in cuneiform by the ancient Hurrians in Syria, sometime around the 14th century B.C. Clay tablets containing the tune and the text were excavated in the 1950s from the ruins of the city of Ugarit, now known as Ras Shamra. Along with a near-complete set of musical notations, it also includes specific instructions for how to play the hymn on a nine-stringed lyre, a type of harp. This also happens to be the oldest notated music ever found. You can find a video of this by searching on Google.

The oldest tune (not the text) in the Lutheran Service Book is probably No. 351, an arrangement of a medieval chant tune dating from around 800 A.D. The text dates from around 400 A.D., translated by John Mason Neale, a fascinating person and hymnist who spoke 22 languages – see if you can come up with 22 languages! “Conditore alme siderum” is Latin for “Creator of the Stars of Night.”

Where does a lot of this information come from? Well, most denominations have what is called a Hymnal Companion, which has the story of the hymns and tunes in their particular hymnal (Episcopal, Baptist, Methodist, etc.) One of the largest is the “Hymnal Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship.” Companions should be in the library of every church musician (and it’s an addictive hobby!). So far, the publication of the LSB Companion is still in progress. Another source is “Sing With Understanding” by Harry Eskew and Hugh McElrath, (Broadman Press 1980).

HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULES

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Fill your hearts with joy as we await our Savior’s birth at Behold the Child, the children’s Christmas program, which will take place during the education hour on Sunday December 15th. The program is expected to begin at 9:45 am. The children will be practicing songs and group speaking lines during Sunday School in the weeks to come, and we will have a dress rehearsal on Saturday December 14th at 10:00 am. It will be very important for all the children to be in attendance at the rehearsal so they feel comfortable with how the program will run in the sanctuary, and the solo speakers will get to practice speaking into the mic. If your child cannot attend the dress rehearsal, please let Lisa Lindstrom know ASAP.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SCHEDULE: Mark your calendars again! The midweek Advent services have been scheduled as listed below. Dinner will be held at 6:00 pm and service will be at 7:00 pm these evenings.

Behold the Child

December 4: For You And All The World

December 11: To Set You Free From All Your Sorrow

December 18: For You, To Bear Your Flesh In Weakness

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS: Please be sure to pick up a devotional for our next Advent series, Behold the Child, in the narthex.

CHRISTMAS EVE: Christmas Eve’s Candlelight Service starts at **7:00 pm** with readings and hymns.

CHRISTMAS DAY: The Divine Service for Christmas starts at **9:30 am**. We look forward to seeing you as we welcome the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

NEW YEAR’S EVE: Please note, this year we will be will not be holding the Evening Prayer service.

ADVENT SERIES: BEHOLD THE CHILD

“God’s own Son is born a child . . . ;
God the Father is reconciled.”

What peace is found in those words. As the Church draws nigh to the Nativity of Our Lord, many also draw nigh to the harsh reality of broken families and friendships. The sting of estrangement intensifies in this season as many delight in family gatherings—a delight that is glaringly absent for others.

We long for reconciliation—a marriage healed, the return of a prodigal child, the open arms of a formerly harsh parent. Advent is just the season for reconciliation. It is a penitential season, calling us to examine ourselves, acknowledge our sin with contrition, and trust that our sin is forgiven for the sake of Christ. Such self-examination reveals that the fault for our broken relationships is not one-sided. The sin visited upon me by another has driven a wedge between us, but so has my sin. Part of the distance between me and others is due to my sinful actions—my sinful refusal to forgive, my sinful pride that will not admit my fault, my sinful contentment with a cold shoulder.

Advent calls us to repent of our divisions. Advent calls us to rejoice in reconciliation. Though you can forgive another even when he refuses to acknowledge his fault, reconciliation is found when both parties are willing to admit their culpability, seek forgiveness, and amend their ways. That can seem so difficult. It is hard enough for one sinner to confess his sin and trust that the Lord purges it from his life. How much more challenging it is for two sinners to do so. Yet that is exactly what Christ works among and within us. He grants us confidence in His forgiveness so that we forgive one another, receive one another's forgiveness, and are thus reconciled.

Reconciliation with some remains ever elusive. We hunger for it; we pray for it. Yet the distance remains. When a parent apologizes to a child so that they embrace for the first time in decades, we rightly rejoice. When our longing is not realized, sorrow results.

The only consolation amid such sorrow is the certainty of your reconciliation to the Father. It is certain because it is not dependent upon sinners humbling themselves in repentance. It is certain because it is dependent upon the sinless Son of God humbling Himself to take on human flesh and be born of a virgin. That "God's own Son is born a child . . . ; God the Father is reconciled" – this is not wishful thinking driven by our longings. It is reality driven by Christ. You are reconciled to the Father. Wednesday of the first week in Advent will greet us with the angel of the Lord who makes known that reconciliation is had because Christ has come "For You and All the World." The second Wednesday of the second week in Advent, we'll hear that Jesus reconciles us to the Father "To Set You Free from All Your Sorrow." Then, our ears will be filled with the promise that we are reconciled to the Father because Christ comes "For You, to Bear Your Flesh in Weakness." Our joy will find its climax at the Nativity of Our Lord, when Jesus' birth is the Lord's visitation of "All the World with His Free Grace Supplying."

Behind it all is the Word of God that the Spirit might quicken in us faith to trust these promises.

MINISTRIES OF MESSIAH

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

(LWML) NEWS – Margie Longan

Advent Dinner – December 4, 2019

Messiah Ladies Guild will serve baked potato and salad from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. The freewill offering

collected will go to Lutheran Women's Missionary League mission projects.

Ladies' Guild Annual "Out to Lunch"

Ladies' Guild will be meeting for our annual luncheon on Wednesday, December 11th at Standford's Restaurant, located at 401 NE Northgate Way. We get started at noon and all Messiah ladies are invited to attend. RSVP to Marjorie Longan, at 206-525-8131. Hope to see you there!

Project / Quilting Day

The next Quilting Day will be Wednesday, **January 22, 2020** at 9:30 am. Please be sure to bring a sack lunch. As always, all congregational women are cordially invited.

28TH ANNUAL NATIVITY EXHIBIT: Nativity Exhibit NW is excited and grateful to be returning to Messiah Lutheran Church again for the 2019 exhibition. This year, as in prior years, they would like to request some additional volunteers to help ensure this year's success. They are asking for the following:

- Wednesday, December 4th - We would love to have volunteers to help with taping the boxes we use to build the lift structure. This is a repetitious but easy job that can be done sitting if needed. We would welcome anyone who would be willing to help us between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, for whatever length of time works for them.
- Friday, December 6th and Saturday, December 7th - We would welcome volunteers to help with keeping the refreshment table supplied, directing guests on arrival, and answering general questions.

If you are able and willing to donate your time, please follow up with Leslie at nativityexhibitnw@gmail.com.

MEN'S NIGHT OUT – Brian Danforth

The next Men's Night Out will be held on Monday, December 9th at 6:00 pm at Mama Melina Ristorante, located at 5101 25th Ave. NE. Please RSVP to Brian Danforth, 206-363-5654.

HELPERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS DECORATING – Josh Pemberton

Advent is already here and it's time to get the church building ready for Christmas. A small group of volunteers is needed to help decorate the sanctuary on December 14th beginning at 9:00 am. Additionally, all

the children are invited to help decorate the tree in the sanctuary after the Christmas program practice on December 14th around 1:00 pm. Contact Josh Pemberton at 425-221-1119 for more information.

CALL FOR PERFORMERS – Tiffany Walker

If you are a musician and have wanted to join the choir and ensemble but are not sure what we do, or if you are looking to share your talents in the spirit of Christmas giving, come play and sing with us this Christmas Eve! We welcome any instrument and vocal ability and would love to have you join us as we share our gifts with Christ's church. If you are interested, please join the ensemble rehearsals following Advent service, or the choir rehearsals at 7:00 pm. Please contact Tiffany Walker, walkertiffanyjf@gmail.com, if you have any questions.

CONCORDIA CHRISTMAS SALE – Robin Danforth

Concordia is selling gift cards during the holiday season at Messiah. We will have a table set up downstairs outside the Fellowship Hall each Sunday during the Education hour. We have gift cards that are the same ones that you can purchase in the grocery store, but the difference is that Concordia is benefiting from your purchases. Concordia buys these cards at a discount, so with each gift card sale, our school is earning money! Stop by our table and check out our selection. We can place special orders and have it available the following week. From gifts to decorations, to holiday meals and more, everything to make your holiday season a lot easier. Here are some ideas for your holiday gift giving and shopping: coaches' gifts, teacher appreciation, corporate gifts, stocking stuffers.

DECORATING MESSIAH WITH POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS – Cheryl Taylor

Members who wish to contribute to the purchase of poinsettias for Christmas will find a sign-up sheet next to the flower chart in the hallway. The cost for each poinsettia is \$12.00. Please use a designated envelope, **labeled Poinsettia**, and place it in the collection with your Sunday offerings. You are welcome to take your flowers home after Christmas Day Divine Service.

CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE IN THE NARTHEX!

Have you grabbed yours for the holiday this year? Only one dollar, this is a great way to help support Messiah's missions. Grab yours today!

FOOD DRIVE THANK YOU: Many thanks to all for the wonderful response to the Thanksgiving food collection. It was taken to the Lake City Food Bank by Robin Melvin. Those donations will make the holiday very special for the people who receive it. The weight of this donation will be announced in the Sunday bulletin once it has been calculated.

AMAZONSMILE: Are you an Amazon customer? Did you know you can have a small portion of each purchase donated to Messiah Lutheran Church if you order via AmazonSmile? The merchandise and prices are exactly the same as Amazon.com—but the benefit is that .5% of your purchase will be donated to a charity of your choice. You can set Messiah Lutheran Church as the beneficiary. Go to Amazon.com, and do a search for AmazonSmile to learn more about this program.

A DAILY, 15-MINUTE, VERSE-BY-VERSE BIBLE STUDY...

The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a podcast hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. Pastor Weedon will be leading a study this week on John 5: The Healing at the Pool on the Sabbath, Jesus Is Equal with God, The Authority of the Son, Witnesses to Jesus and more. You can listen on-demand at thewordendures.org and on the LPR mobile app.

HUMAN CARE

DONATION UPDATE– Jackie Wold

In October, we collected the following items for Immanuel Lutheran & Women's Cascade Compass Center: 2 containers of baby cereal, 2 baby food jars, 1 sippy cup. Thank you for your generosity! In November, we collected women's hygiene supplies and liquid body soaps, the count of which is still being tallied. **In December, we are collecting toothbrushes, toothpastes, and hand/body lotions.** Please place your items in the Cry Room lounge basket across from the coffee bar. Updated collection announcements will be in the Sunday collection area.

FELLOWSHIP

EDUCATION HOUR REFRESHMENTS: Starting in January we are asking that you sign up to provide the refreshments for the education hour on Sundays. You can provide whatever food that you would like, and it includes set-up and clean-up. Sign-up list will be posted in the kitchen. Questions? Call Jean Mindemann @ 206-526-9523.

CURRENT & UPCOMING BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS

WHAT: Book of Matthew
 WHEN: Sunday Mornings at 9:30 am
 WHERE: Fellowship Hall
 TEACHER: Pastor Mankin

BASIC LUTHERAN TEACHINGS (formerly AIC)

WHAT: Intro to Lutheran Christian Faith
 WHEN: **To Be Determined**
 WHERE: Room 202/204
 TEACHER: Pastor Mankin

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

WHAT: Gospel of Luke
 WHEN: Tuesdays, **10:00 am**
 WHERE: Fellowship Hall
 TEACHER: Harry Edmon

SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

WHAT: Gospel of John
 WHEN: Saturdays, **10:00 am**
 WHERE: 202/204
 TEACHER: Jim Grant

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES

& OFFICIAL ACTS

BIRTHDAYS

Shelley Tennant	12/01
Titus Grand	12/02
Heidi Morse	12/02
Bev Edmon	12/04
Dea Pearce	12/06
Susie Paeth	12/07
Destiny Aguayo	12/16
Carter Petro	12/17
Laurie Mendes	12/19
Lucy Neubert	12/20
Adeline Bourn	12/26
Andrew Melvin	12/28

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Nicole Cox	12/02
Elizabeth Cohrs	12/03
Lydia Miller	12/05
Evelyn Mankin	12/07
Heidi Morse	12/09
Larry Bourn	12/13

Louise Daigneault	12/19
Shelbey Davis	12/19
Titus Grant	12/20
Jennifer Clark	12/23
Bev Edmon	12/26
Lisa Mankin	12/27
Xylia Ankrah	12/28
Lucy Neubert	12/30
Andy Lueck	12/31

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Clarence & Peggy Mankin	12/02
Dick & Jan Hillmann	12/26
Jonathan & Veronica Steele	12/31

OFFICIAL ACTS

On November 3rd, we welcomed the following members into our congregation: Keri Valdes, Andrew Riker, Ryan & Danielle Smith, and Eric & Cynthia Stone. In our annual congregational meeting, we voted the following members into office starting 2020: Mark Jorgensen, President; Peter Boomhower, Vice President; Andrew Riker, Secretary; Kimi Janssen, Fellowship; Nate Schaub, Property Management; Social Ministries, Sharon Christiansen; Chris Zakian, Technology.

DID WE MISS YOU?

Was your birthday, baptism or otherwise, or your anniversary this month and you aren't listed here? That means the office doesn't have your special day on record. You can fix that today by contacting the office at office@messiahseattle.org or calling us at 206-524-0024. We appreciate every chance to update our records so that they're as accurate as possible!



MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



December 2019

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 ADVENT BEGINS 8:00 am Divine Service 9:30 am Fellowship Hour 10:45 am Divine Service	2	3 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Youth board meeting 7:00 pm Bell Choir	4 ADVENT I 6:00 pm Advent Dinner 7:00 pm Midweek Service	5 7:00 pm Choir	6 10:00 am Nativity Exhibit NW	7 10:00 am Nativity Exhibit NW 10:00 am Bible Study
8 8:00 am Divine Service 9:00 am Nativity Exhibit NW 9:30 am Education Hour 10:45 am Divine Service	9 6:00 pm Men's Night Out	10 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Council meeting 7:00 pm Bell Choir	11 ADVENT II 12:00 pm Ladies' Guild Meeting 6:00 pm Advent Dinner 7:00 pm Midweek Service 7:45 pm Ensemble	12 7:00 pm Choir	13	14 9:00 am Christmas Tree Decorating 10:00 am Children's Program Rehearsal 10:00 am Bible Study
15 8:00 am Divine Service 9:00 am Children's Christmas Program 10:45 am Divine Service	16 MESSENGER DEADLINE FOR JANUARY	17 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Exec board meeting 7:00 pm Bell Choir	18 ADVENT III 6:00 pm Advent Dinner 7:00 pm Midweek Service 7:45 pm Ensemble	19 7:00 pm Choir	20	21 10:00 am Bible Study
22 8:00 am Divine Service 9:30 am Education Hour 10:45 am Divine Service	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 6:00 pm Hymn Sing 7:00 pm Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 9:30 am Divine Service <i>The office will be closed in observance of the holiday.</i>	26	27	28 10:00 am Bible Study
29 8:00 am Divine Service 9:30 am Education Hour 10:45 am Divine Service	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 7:00 pm Bell Choir				

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

If you would like to fill an OPEN or VOLUNTEER spot, please call the church office at 206.524.0024.

ACOLYTES

8:00 am	10:45 am
1 volunteer	Addie Clark
8 Destiny Aguayo	Addie Clark
15 Lena Witt	Will Strege
22 Destiny Aguayo	Peter Grimm
29 Lena Witt	Jack Knudson

USHERS

8:00 am	10:45 am
1 Jim Mendes	Steve Miller
8 Lee Cohrs	Dave Paeth
15 Terry King	Curt Colbert
22 Harry Edmon	Dan Lassman
29 Lee Cohrs	Curt Colbert

GREETERS

8:00 am Upstairs	8:00 am Downstairs	10:45 am Upstairs	10:45 am Downstairs
1 Terry King	Robin Melvin	Maya Martin	Dan Lassman
8 Sharon Christiansen	Jack & Donna Holdridge	Sharon Christiansen	Dorothy Bellin
15 Sue Hewitson	Larry & Nancy Bourn	Sue Hewitson	Ann Melvin
22 Frieda Johnson	Jack & Donna Holdridge	Dorothy Bellin	Sharon Christiansen
29 none	none	none	none

READERS

8:00 am	10:45 am
1 Shelley Tennant	Dan Lassman
8 Lee Cohrs	Sue Hewitson
15 Harry Edmon	Neil Strege
22 Albert Lirhus	Curt Colbert
29 Robin Melvin	Dave Miller

TRANSPORTATION

1 Sharon Christiansen
8 Joanne Warner
15 Shelley Tennant
22 Shelley Tennant
29 Shelley Tennant

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

1 Pastor Mankin
8 Pastor Mankin
15 Pastor Mankin
22 Pastor Mankin
29 Pastor Mankin

ELDERS

8:00 am	10:45 am
1 Harry Edmon, Lee Cohrs	Neil Strege, Josh Pemberton
8 Lee Cohrs, Michael Boomhower	Josh Pemberton, Neil Strege
15 Michael Boomhower, Robin Melvin	Neil Strege, David Miller
22 Robin Melvin, Andrew Petro	David Miller, Josh Pemberton
29 Harry Edmon, Lee Cohrs	Josh Pemberton, Neil Strege

ALTAR GUILD

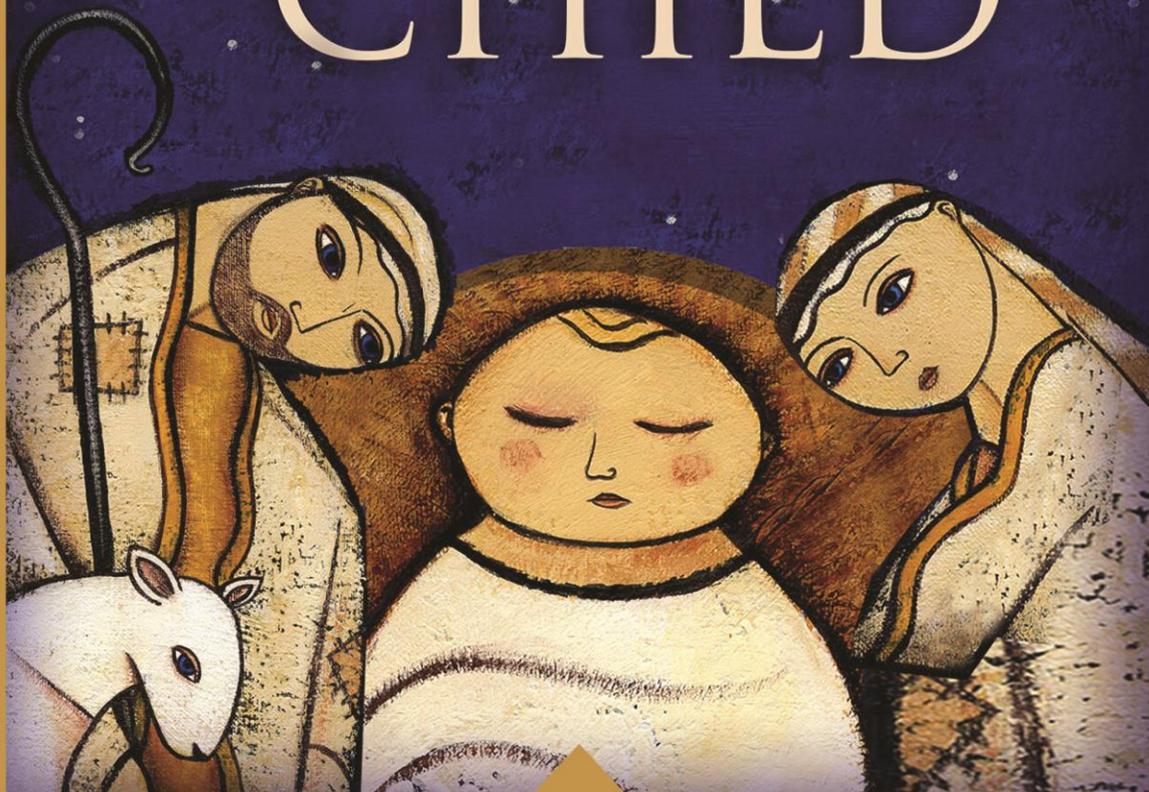
1 Jack & Donna Holdridge, Sharon Christiansen
8 Sharon Estergreen, Joanne Estergreen
15 Cheryl Taylor, Joanne Estergreen
22 Cheryl Taylor, Joanne Estergreen
29 Cheryl Taylor, Joanne Estergreen



ADVENT, CHRISTMAS EVE, & CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICES

ALTAR GUILD	ACOLYTES	USHERS	CRUCIFERS	ELDERS
4 Jack & Donna Holdridge	Will Strege	Terry King	-	-
11 Jack & Donna Holdridge	Peter Grimm	Steve Miller	-	-
18 Jean Mindemann	Addie Clark	Jim Mendes	-	-
24 Sharon Christiansen	Jack Knudson	Dave Paeth	Cameron Petro	-
25 Jack & Donna Holdridge	volunteer (9:30 am)	Harry Edmon	volunteer (9:30 am)	Jim Grant

BEHOLD *The* CHILD



JOIN US FOR THIS ADVENT
MIDWEEK SERIES

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
Advent Dinners at 6:00 pm

December 4: For You And All The World
December 11: To Set You Free From All Your Sorrow
December 18: For You, To Bear Your Flesh In Weakness