

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Third Sunday in Advent

Divine Setting Service Four-Page 203

December 17, 2023—8am

We celebrate the Lord's Supper today! Please prepare yourselves using these questions as a guide:

- Have I been baptized in the Name of the Triune God, Father, Son & Holy Spirit?
- Do I believe that I am a sinful being without hope for eternal life except in mercy of Jesus Christ?
- Do I believe in Jesus as My Savior?
- Do I believe that Jesus Christ is personally present in communion with His body and blood to forgive my sins, as the Bible teaches?
- Do I desire and strive by the power of the Holy Spirit to live a God-pleasing life?

As you come to the Lord's Supper you are affirming with each communicant that Jesus is your Lord and Savior, and that the Lutheran Church's confession of Jesus Christ and His Supper is your confession as well.

White grape juice is now available in the center of the communion tray for those who cannot partake of alcohol.

Prelude

Welcome: Pastor Kent / Pastor Miguel

Hymn: #390 "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"



- 1 Let us all with glad-some voice Praise the God of heav - en,
- 2 To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sad - ness,
- 3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a won - der?
- 4 Christ, our Lord and Sav - ior dear, Be Thou ev - er near us.



Who, to bid our hearts re - joice, His own Son hath giv - en.
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in glad - ness.
There-fore praise God ev - er - more Here on earth and yon - der.
Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Invocation *(Please rise)*

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

(Silent reflection)

People: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**



Kyrie  **Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.**

The Salutation

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Collect for The Day

Pastor: Let us pray:

People: **Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

People: **Amen. *(Please be seated)***

The Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹ The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸ For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹ Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.

²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good.

²² Abstain from every form of evil.

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *Hand Bells*

Children’s Sermon: “How Sweet the Sound” Pastor Fuqua

Alleluia and Verse



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Gospel

Pastor: The Holy Gospel is written in the 1st chapter of St. John beginning at the 6th verse.

People: **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.

⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”

²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.”

²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”

²² So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.)

²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Apostles Creed

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ His 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 into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Hymn: #353 "Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring" Verses 1-4



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of
4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,
hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!
Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.
Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Sermon: "Do's, Don't's, Done" *Pastor Fuqua*

Offertory

#781 "We Give Thee But Thine Own" Verses 1 & 2

- 1 We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
- 2 May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our firstfruits give!

Text: Public domain

Offerings are gathered

The Prayers

Strength & Comfort for Cristian, diagnosed with diabetes at an early age, son of friend of Alejandro Guerrero

The Lord's Prayer *(Please stand)*

All: 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.

(Please help us keep our attendance numbers accurate by filling out the attendance cards and giving to Ushers at communion.)

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

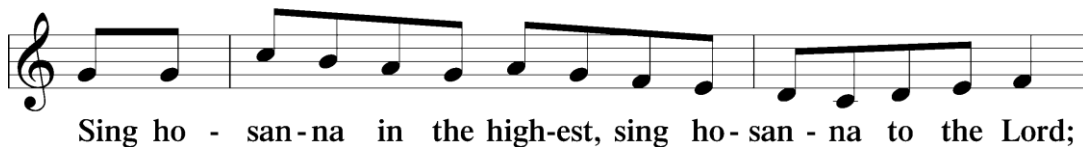
People: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly meet, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

The Words of Institution

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

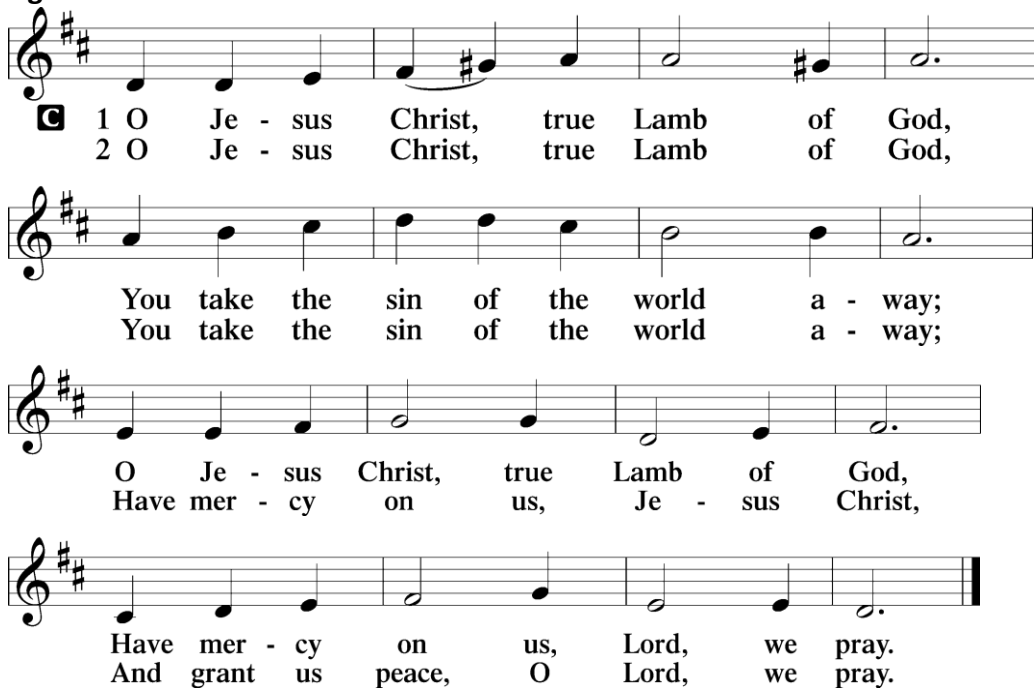
Pax Domini

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

Sharing the Peace – Greet One Another with the Peace of the Lord

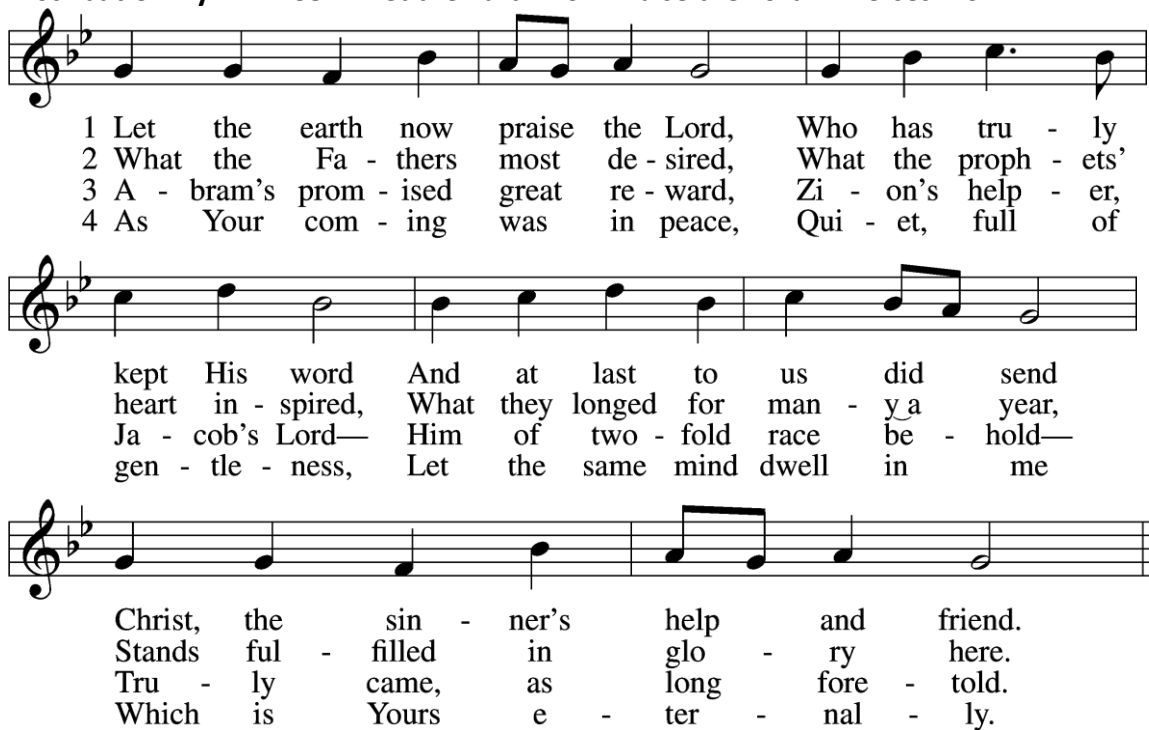
Agnus Dei



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn: #352 "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord" Verses 1-5



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly,
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets',
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of
kept His word And at last to us did send
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me
Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

- 5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

Nunc Dimittis *(Please stand)*

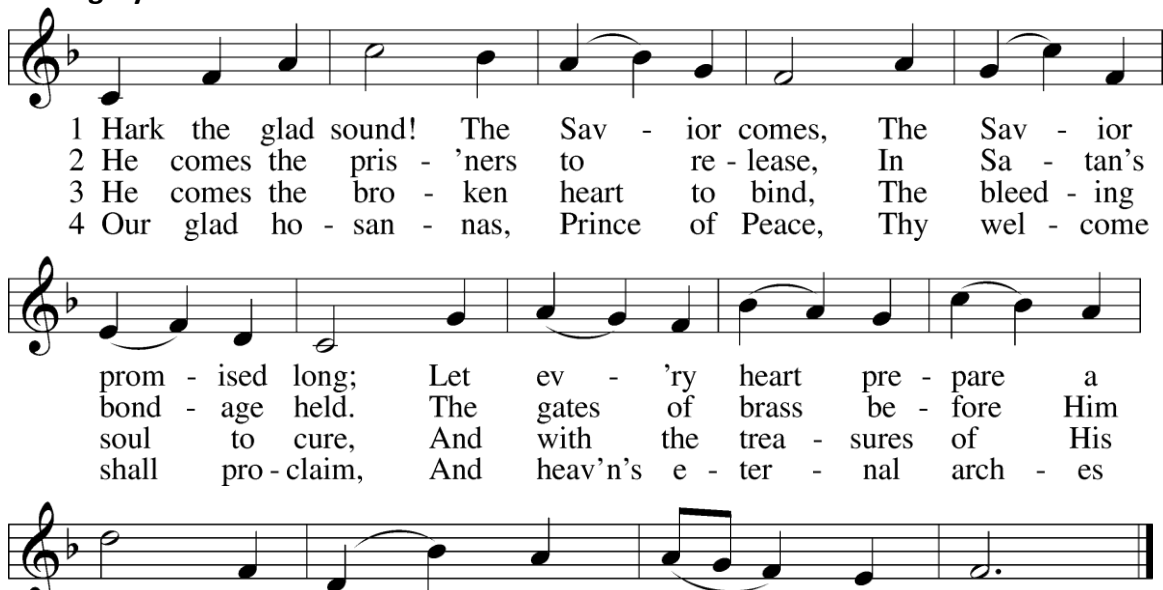
1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the be - Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

The Benedicamus and Benediction

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: Amen.

Closing Hymn: #349 "Hark the Glad Sound"



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text and tune: Public domain

Our Vision

Pastor: As a reminder of the reason why we exist as a church let us speak our vision statement together.

All: Through Word and Sacrament ministry, we share the love, joy, and peace of Jesus Christ among ourselves and with those around us.

Pastor: Our worship has ended, our service now begins.
Let us go in peace.

All: And serve the Lord.

Altar flowers are placed to the glory of God

Services will be live-streamed and a recording of service will be posted by the end of the day. You may watch these on Facebook, YouTube or go to website under Worship or scroll down on home page and find the latest services.

Please keep the church office updated on prayers that have been asked to be kept on indefinitely, military and ones for continued healing or cancer treatments.

Continued Prayers

We pray to God our Lord for Pastor Miguel and our Hispanic Ministry in Immanuel

Healing or Good Test Results

Christine Garrett

Barbara Abel

Adam, nephew of the Kelp's

Battling with Cancer or Serious Illness

Andrew Hynick, father of Aaron Hynick
Gloria McNail, aunt of Susan Tumlin
Heather Boatwright, friend of Cindy Szczesny
Tammy Granger, friend of Danielle Farnsworth
David, son-in-law of Nancy Christianson
Cassandra, niece of Pat Cook
Walt Nea
DeeAnn Cook, sister-in-law of Steve & Pat Cook
Christine Van Etten
Barbara LaVere
Cathy Nichols with terminal cancer, mother of Cathy Wilson
Tom Meyferth

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Safety for... and strength for families:

Kincaide Green, stationed at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho
Robert Lowry
Joshua Littrel, stationed at Ft. Campbell, KY with the 101st Airborne/Air Assault Division, 3rd Brigade "Rakkasans"
Luke Buchholz, Navy, grandson of Ann Donahue, stationed at Norfolk, VA
Matthew Reikowski as he is deployed on the Carl S. Vinson
Logan Crouse, US Army, great-nephew of Joan Crouse, stationed at Ft. Campbell in NC
Samuel Drake, Captain stationed at Holloman AFB in Alamogordo, NM, son of Kerry Drake
Cpl. Xander Ritter, USMC, stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA
Gavin Mattson, para-rescue man, stationed in the Panhandle of FL, grandson of Edith Mattson

ALSO, FOR ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILIES

Sunday: Milo & Teri Rozehnal
Monday: James & Megan Rubocki, Riley, Miles, Leighton
Tuesday: Tony & Mary Russo, Christine
Wed: Julie Ryden
Thurs: Pastor Miguel & Katherine Sanabria, Jr.
Friday: Pastor Miguel & Deaconess Flor Sanabria, Sr
Saturday: Craig Sawicki, Toni

PRAYERS FOR OUR SCHOOL STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Sunday Mason, Ja'Nylah, Massiah Morrissey
Monday: Amira & Angelina Nelson
Tuesday: Andrew Nicholson
Wed: Mathias Noria
Thurs: Sara Mahdavi Ojeda
Friday: Emma Ortiz
Saturday: Jacob, Jayden, Jann, Keyriamys Ortiz

The Call Committee encourages everyone to meditate on these scripture verses and continue praying for Pastor Phil, his family and all they will be dealing with over the next few months:

Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. Psalm 27:14
And I will give you Pastors, according to mine heart, which will feed you with knowledge and understanding. Jeremiah 3:15

Oh LORD, You gave us the strength and peace to wait, and You responded with sending to us Pastor Phil Ressler. We are blessed. And so we rejoice and give You all the glory, the praise and the thanks. We pray now that You will prepare the way with the right home and all that Pastor Phil and his family will need to make this transition and move. Along with Pastor Phil, we pray also that You will calm any fears and anxiousness that the congregation, Good Shepherd in Old Bridge, the church he is leaving, may have and prepare them for the pastor they will be seeking. We pray all of these things in the precious and holy name of our Savior, Jesus. Amen

PRAYER FOR THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Almighty God, Judge and King, You sent John the Baptist to proclaim the message of salvation in Christ. Come, Lord Jesus, with Your grace and help us all our days to proclaim Your salvation, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Holiday Worship Schedule

Advent Bi-Lingual Services - 6:30 p.m.
December 6th, 13th and 20th
Preservice meals at 5:30pm

Christmas Eve—10am Communion
5:00pm Family Service Bilingual Candlelight
7pm—Candlelight

Christmas Day - 10am Communion