



## St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

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*Our Shared Mission: We are saved by grace  
through faith to share the good news of the  
Gospel with all people and live  
God's love by our words and actions.*

# Monthly Newsletter – December 2021

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## December 2021 Worship Schedule

Dear Church, welcome back **INDOORS!** Worship services will be held **INDOORS** beginning in **December of 2021**. Here's the plan for December (COVID-permitting):

**Sundays**, December 5, 12, 19

**10:30a** Worship inside St. Stephen's Sanctuary

*(This is our 'regular' worship time through September of 2022.)*

**Friday**, December 24<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas Eve Worship Services**

**4p** inside Gethsemane Sanctuary

**6p** inside St. Stephen's Sanctuary

**Sunday**, December 26<sup>th</sup>

**ONLINE** Worship Only: With Christmas Eve and Sunday worship being back-to-back, the Joint Council agreed that there would be **no, in-person worship service** this day. An **online** worship service will be made available on our Facebook pages: **[bit.ly/GethMI](https://www.facebook.com/bit.ly/GethMI)** or **[bit.ly/StephMI](https://www.facebook.com/bit.ly/StephMI)**.





12 Keith & Shirley Olsen  
30 Bob & Shelley Berglin

|                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 Peggy Spaude     | 21 Tom Fletcher       |
| 8 Lilliana Revall  | 23 Jenna Perretto     |
| 11 Pat Kaczmarczyk | 26 Brock Motto        |
| 16 Alicia May      | 28 Norma Elmer        |
| 18 Wayne Thill     | 28 Peter Christenson  |
| 20 Nick Hess       | 29 Hayden Christenson |
| 21 Belle Mack      | 30 Fred Belec         |
|                    | 30 Jim Voss           |



Jordan Baril, Jay Chapple,  
Trish Dams, Thomas Dutkavich,  
Brent Jurmu, Jared Jurmu

## ***We continue to hold in prayer:***

|                   |                    |                        |                  |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Art Kaliszewski   | Avery Hayward      | Caitlin Christophersen | Dan Etelamaki    |
| David Kohrt       | Dean Kauthen       | Deanna Thill           | Delores Erickson |
| Delores Gill      | Denise Marineau    | Dennis Paul            | Dorothy Peretto  |
| Emily Christenson | Evelyn Gewerth     | Gene Wangerin          | James Dutkavich  |
| Jim Gill          | Jim Wenger         | Joan Hofer             | Karen Raether    |
| Keith Thoun       | Kenny Kline        | Kevin Havelka          | Lewis Nicholson  |
| Logan Parrett     | Lois Azelton       | Lorrie Stone           | Luann Q. Kiefer  |
| Macy Berszenyi    | Michelle Beauchard | Mike Lubore            | Mike McCarthy    |
| Mike Pfeiffer     | Miles Sorenson     | Pat Heiden             | Penny Nehls      |
| Rob Boe           | Robert Berszenyi   | Sandy Baumler          | Sarah Hess       |
| Sheila Konkell    | Stephanie Wallgren | Sue Skowronski         | Tammy Parrett    |
| Tom Kuntze        | Tom Wenger         | Tracy Klatt            | Wally Majkrzak   |
| Wayne Sundstrom   | Wendy Gravelle     | Wendy Hanson           | Wendy Majkrzak   |

*The hope and comfort of the Resurrection is with the families of  
**+Richard Lesperance+ and +Bill Harris+.***

*Thank you for holding the friends and families of our Congregants in your daily prayers.  
Corrections? Additions? Please contact the Church Office. Thanks!*

## Daily Bible Readings - Year C

**Year C** focuses on the Gospel of **Luke**. The semi-continuous Old Testament readings are of prophetic proclamation chosen in chronological order and highlighting Jeremiah. The second, New Testament, readings are chosen mainly from Colossians 1 and 2 Timothy and 2 Thessalonians.

|             |                 |                      |              |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Wed – Dec 1 | Isaiah 1:24-31  | Luke 11:29-32        | Psalms 90    |
| Thu – Dec 2 | Malachi 3:5-12  | Philippians 1:12-18a | Luke 1:68-79 |
| Fri – Dec 3 | Malachi 3:13-18 | Philippians 1:18b-26 | Luke 1:68-79 |
| Sat – Dec 4 | Malachi 4:1-6   | Luke 9:1-6           | Luke 1:68-79 |

**Sun. Dec. 5 — 2nd Sunday of Advent** Mal 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79 (78), Phil 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

**Prayer of the Day:** Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

|              |                   |                    |               |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Mon – Dec 6  | Isaiah 40:1-11    | Romans 8:22-25     | Psalms 126    |
| Tue – Dec 7  | Isaiah 19:18-25 2 | Peter 1:2-15       | Psalms 126    |
| Wed – Dec 8  | Isaiah 35:3-7     | Luke 7:18-30       | Psalms 126    |
| Thu – Dec 9  | Amos 6:1-8 2      | Corinthians 8:1-15 | Isaiah 12:2-6 |
| Fri – Dec 10 | Amos 8:4-12 2     | Corinthians 9:1-15 | Isaiah 12:2-6 |
| Sat – Dec 11 | Amos 9:8-15       | Luke 1:57-66       | Isaiah 12:2-6 |

**Sun. Dec. 12 — 3rd Sunday of Advent** Zeph 3:14-20, Isa 12:2-6 (6), Phil 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

**Prayer of the Day:** Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

|              |                   |                  |               |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Mon – Dec 13 | Numbers 16:1-19   | Hebrews 13:7-17  | Isaiah 11:1-9 |
| Tue – Dec 14 | Numbers 16:20-35  | Acts 28:23-31    | Isaiah 11:1-9 |
| Wed – Dec 15 | Micah 4:8-13      | Luke 7:31-35     | Isaiah 11:1-9 |
| Thu – Dec 16 | Jeremiah 31:31-34 | Hebrews 10:10-18 | Psalms 80:1-7 |
| Fri – Dec 17 | Isaiah 42:10-18   | Hebrews 10:32-39 | Psalms 80:1-7 |
| Sat – Dec 18 | Isaiah 66:7-11    | Luke 13:31-35    | Psalms 80:1-7 |

**Sun. Dec. 19 — 4th Sunday of Advent** Mic 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55 (52), Heb 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

**Prayer of the Day:** Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

|              |                  |                    |               |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Mon – Dec 20 | Genesis 25:19-28 | Colossians 1:15-20 | Psalms 113    |
| Tue – Dec 21 | Genesis 30:1-24  | Romans 8:18-30     | Psalms 113    |
| Wed – Dec 22 | Micah 4:1-5      | Ephesians 2:11-22  | Luke 1:46b-55 |
| Thu – Dec 23 | Micah 4:6-8 2    | Peter 1:16-21      | Luke 1:46b-55 |

**Fri. Dec. 24 — Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve** Isa 9:2-7, Ps 96(11), Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

**Prayer of the Day:** *Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the rightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

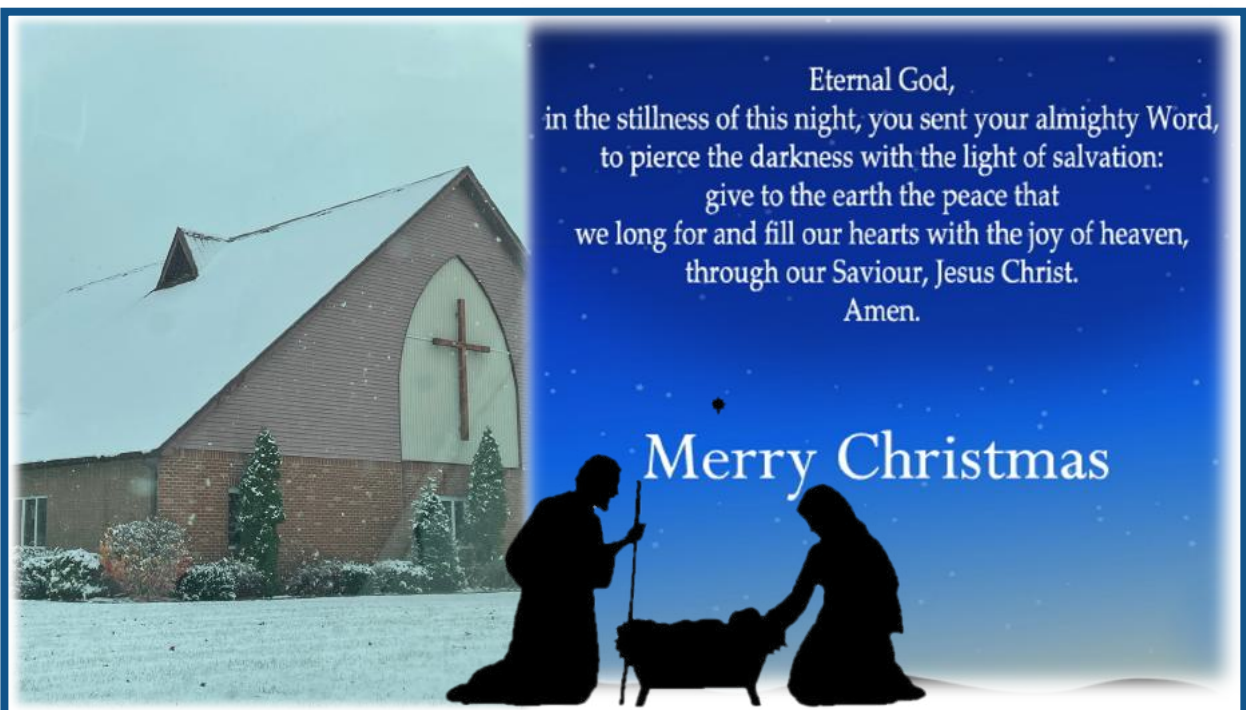
**Sat. Dec. 25 — Christmas Day** Isa 62:6-12, Ps 97(11), Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:[1-7]8-20

**Prayer of the Day:** *All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

**Sun. Dec. 26 — First Sunday of Christmas** Sam 2:18-20, 26, Ps 148 (13), Col 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52

**Prayer of the Day:** *Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

|              |                       |                       |                 |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Mon – Dec 27 | Proverbs 8:32-36      | John 21:19b-24        | Psalm 148       |
| Tue – Dec 28 | Isaiah 54:1-13        | Revelation 21:1-7     | Psalm 148       |
| Wed. Dec. 29 | 1 Chronicles 28:10-10 | 1 Corinthians 3:10-17 | Psalm 147:12-20 |
| Thu – Dec 30 | 2 Chronicles 1:7-13   | Mark 13:32-37         | Psalm 147:12-20 |
| Fri – Dec 31 | 1 Kings 3:5-14        | John 8:12-19          | Psalm 147:12-20 |





## STEWARDSHIP + FORTUNE LAKE UPDATES



Your Church Council has been preparing the **Budget for 2022**. During this unique time of worship, we will depend even more on the generosity of our worshipping community.

**PLEASE** continue to give of your hearts so our congregation will emerge from this pandemic in a healthy space, ready to continue the ministries of Christ. **God's Work, Our Hands!**



## FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP

*A place of grace...*

[fortunelake.org](http://fortunelake.org)

***We're getting all of the "pieces" in place for next summer's camping season, and we need your help "putting it all together."***

You've guessed it... We're hosting **LEGO® Camp in 2022!** This camp will be a 5-night program July 17-22, 2022 for grades 3-8 and will include loads of building challenges, exciting projects, and old-fashioned fun. In order to do so, **we need A LOT of LEGO® bricks!**



Do you have a toy box or closet full of LEGO® bricks that you don't need? Are you an avid thrifter who likes to find great deals? **We need your help!** Watch for LEGO® bricks, and get them to Fortune Lake. **Thanks in advance!**

LEGO® is a trademark of the LEGO Group of companies which does not sponsor, authorize or endorse this event.



## ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – COUNCIL MINUTES WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2021 (*early*)

**PRESENT:** Harlan Anderson (*President*), Bob Berglin, Cheri Leiphart (*Vice-President*), Keith Olson, Al Raether, John Starzynski, Pr. Brenda Greenwald  
**EXCUSED:** Kami Salo (*Secretary*)

- Meeting called to order: 7:00pm

**Agenda Approval:** Motion to Accept: JOHN Seconded: BOB

**Secretary's Report:** No new report to review

**Pastor's Report:** No new report to review (*ministry moments shared a week ago*)

**Treasurer / Financial Secretary's Reports:** No new reports to review (*too early in the month*)

### Ministry Team Reports

| Team                         | Liaison(s)                     | Updates                                                                                  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Bethesda Cemetery          | Keith                          | Alvin and Keith cleaned up the pots and will lower the flag on 11/12, after Veterans Day |
| • Faith Formation            | Kami                           | ( <i>suspended at this time</i> )                                                        |
| • Fellowship/Social Ministry | Kami                           | ( <i>suspended at this time</i> )                                                        |
| • Finance Team               | Al, Harlan, John               |                                                                                          |
| • Memorial Fund              | John                           |                                                                                          |
| • Property Team              | Al, Cheri, Harlan, John, Keith |                                                                                          |
| • Stewardship Team           | Cheri                          |                                                                                          |
| • WELCA                      | Harlan                         |                                                                                          |
| • Worship/Music              | Keith                          |                                                                                          |

**Motion to Accept:** CHERI Seconded: HARLAN

**OLD Business:** No old business

### NEW Business:

- a. The Finance Team discussed scheduling a meeting with the Treasurer, Sandy Chaney, to help them understand the reports and prepare for an audit. Harlan will contact Sandy for a mutually acceptable date.
- b. Next Council meeting: **Wednesday, December 15, 2021** at St. Stephen's at 6pm

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to Accept: KEITH Time: 7:07pm

Council closed the meeting with *The Lord's Prayer*. Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Cheri Leiphart

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## UPDATE FROM BISHOP FINEGAN



***Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?  
But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." ~Romans 8:24-25***

**Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,** You have no doubt noticed the increasing darkness. The kids go to school in the dark, and soon, the school day will end as it began, in darkness. The hours of light are getting shorter and shorter, and people are grateful for lingering twilight. How ironic that the most hopeful season of the church year begins as the darkness increases. In the weeks to come, we light candles on the Advent wreath, and it's not a moment too soon. These lights of hope stand against the growing darkness. And every week, as we add the flame of another candle, the light will increase and shine brighter even as the darkness comes sooner and lasts longer. In this season of Hope, and as this year of Hope 2021 comes to its end, I share with you some things that I do see that give me hope:

1. **Our congregations continue to find new, creative ways to do ministry.** As I read through your newsletters, whether online or hard copy, I am impressed and encouraged by your continued efforts. Sure, some things have paused. Yes, some priorities have been re-evaluated and energies placed in new directions. Yet, this is all good as we continue to be church together and church for the sake of the world. I am grateful to the Spirit that is at work among and through us as the work of Christ continues.
2. **We have wonderful pastoral leaders!** In the past few years, we have welcomed many new pastors and they bring new energy, perspective, and ideas. And our seasoned pastors and Licensed Lay Ministers have provided stability and the blessing of trusted relationships that keep congregational partnerships in motion and help reduce anxiety. And congregations in pastoral transition have been patient and involved, waiting for God's timing with hope.
3. **We have renewed joy in being together again...safely.** As pandemic restrictions have eased, Pastor Jim and I are once again happy to gather with you for worship. I do not mind wearing a mask if it means we can sing together and gather in the same space. I love hearing the voices of others raised in song and prayer. It has felt like salve on a wound to share the peace, sing alto to someone's soprano, and hear combined voices pray the Lord's prayer together in the rhythm and cadence of voices in unison. While I truly believe that some sense of community can be achieved and appreciated through Zoom, YouTube, and Facebook live, the joy and value of the community gathered in person is also true and real.
4. **Our synod is newly connected** through Lifelong Faith Formation, Pastoral Leader Check-Ins, and various Zoom meetings. While I have missed being able to add lunch and snacks to in-person Synod meetings, in many ways we are more connected as a synod than we have ever been. Teachers and students from the Copper Country to Marinette, from Ironwood to Sault Ste. Marie gather in virtual classrooms and discussion groups. We are church together in a whole new way, gathering to discuss and wrestle with conversations about issues of race, scriptural interpretation, and to consider and plan various ministry efforts.
5. **God is at work!** In all our efforts, in all our re-evaluations, in all the changes and future uncertainty, the Spirit of the living Christ is gathering, inspiring, supporting, and guiding. We are discovering again what it means to be church, what the purpose of the Body of Christ is in this world, and who we are in mission together. I see a new hunger for deeper spirituality and for meaningful connectedness to God and each other. I see ministry efforts taking on a life of their own. I see details and pieces falling together. I see a willingness to experiment, to try new things, to jump even when the landing is unclear.



There is much to be hopeful for because of what we can see even as we continue to hope for that which is still becoming. As Advent candles are lit, as the glow from the manger bed grows brighter, as we strain to hear the songs of angels, remember that you are not alone. In hopeful anticipation of Christmas and a blessed New Year, I believe it is not too soon to share the following verse from "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" that speaks anew to our present circumstances: And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow: look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing; Oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

**Yours in Christ, Bishop Katherine Finegan**



# REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.

December 1 - box of cereal  
December 2 - peanut butter  
December 3 - stuffing mix  
December 4 - boxed potatoes  
December 5 - macaroni and cheese  
December 6 - canned fruit  
December 7 - canned tomatoes  
December 8 - canned tuna  
December 9 - dessert mix  
December 10 - jar of applesauce  
December 11 - canned sweet potatoes  
December 12 - cranberry sauce  
December 13 - canned beans  
December 14 - box of crackers  
December 15 - package of rice  
December 16 - package of oatmeal  
December 17 - package pasta  
December 18 - spaghetti sauce  
December 19 - chicken noodle soup  
December 20 - tomato soup  
December 21 - can corn  
December 22 - can mixed vegetables  
December 23 - can carrots  
December 24 - can green beans

We are continuing our Advent tradition of helping collect food for our local Mid-County Food Pantry!

Your donations will help fill the shelves of the Food Pantry on Samuel Street, directly next to the Post Office in Stephenson. *(The old Northlands building).*

*Donations can be brought to the Food Pantry after December 25<sup>th</sup>, or by coordinating with the Food Pantry using this e-mail: [midcntyfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:midcntyfoodpantry@gmail.com)*

DECEMBER 5, 2021  
SECOND SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

taking+  
faith  
home

*Prepare the way of Jesus.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

|           |                    |                             |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday    | Luke 3:1-6         | Prepare the way of the Lord |
| Monday    | Malachi 3:1-4      | The promised messenger      |
| Tuesday   | Philippians 1:3-11 | Peace to God's people       |
| Wednesday | Psalms 126         | Harvest of joy              |
| Thursday  | Proverbs 24:13-14  | Seek wisdom                 |
| Friday    | Isaiah 40:1-11     | A voice in the desert       |
| Saturday  | Luke 1:68-79       | Zechariah's prophesy        |
| Sunday    | Luke 3:7-18        | One more powerful is coming |

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*[A]s it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Luke 3:4 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord Jesus, may we join with John the Baptist to prepare your way into the world that all may know hope, the forgiveness of sins, and the salvation you bring. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we give you thanks for this meal and your tender mercies that bless us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord Jesus bless you with hope for each new day.



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DECEMBER 5, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Come, Thou*

*Long-Expected Jesus*

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faith  
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When you are expecting company in your home, how do you prepare for their visit?
- How does preparing for the coming of Christ reflect your hope for the future?

### DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 3:1-6.

Baptism by John the Baptist was not the same as that of Jesus. Jesus' baptism brings the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16). It is our Christian baptism that gives birth to a life of faith and salvation. John's baptism does reveal something about our life in Christ through baptism: daily renewal through repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Christian baptism begins a way of life of daily renewal in grace, free to confess shortcomings and free to receive forgiveness, new life, and new opportunities to love one's neighbor. John prepares the way of Jesus into the world, and so do we with our daily return to our baptism. Our faith, born by the Spirit, gives hope not only to us, but to the whole world because in our relationships with others, we speak of repentance, forgiveness, and salvation for all.

Discuss: How do you share this faith with others?

Pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, renew us in faith each day that we may prepare for your coming into our lives so that all may live in hope through the power of forgiveness. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, how can you share the hope of Jesus' coming through your actions or words?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This is the Second Sunday of Advent. Light two blue/purple candles on the Advent wreath.

Say: **We light the first candle, the Prophet's candle, and the second candle, the Bethlehem candle, naming where Jesus will be born. May we prepare for the coming of Christ into our lives and our world with confidence and with hope for all the world.**

Pray: **Dear God, give us faith to trust your word, love to care for others, and hope in your promise to return and make all things new through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

DECEMBER 19, 2021  
FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

taking<sup>+</sup>  
faith  
home

*We rejoice in the fulfillment of God's promises.*

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

|           |                 |                                 |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Luke 1:39-55    | Mary visits Elizabeth           |
| Monday    | Micah 5:2-5a    | A promised ruler                |
| Tuesday   | Hebrews 10:5-10 | Christ's sacrifice once for all |
| Wednesday | Micah 4:1-5     | Peace through obedience         |
| Thursday  | Psalms 80:1-7   | Prayer for Israel's restoration |
| Friday    | Luke 2:1-20     | The birth of Jesus              |
| Saturday  | John 1:1-14     | The Word became flesh           |
| Sunday    | Luke 2:41-52    | The boy Jesus at the temple     |

#### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Luke 1:46b-47 (NRSV)*

#### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

##### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Come, Lord Jesus, come and bring hope, peace, joy, and love to our lives and for all the world. Amen.

##### **Mealtime Prayer:**

God of abundance, as you fill us with this meal, we pray for all to have enough food to be satisfied and enough hope to have peace and joy in Christ our Lord. Amen.

##### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the mercy and love of God shine on you and give you joy.



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DECEMBER 12, 2021  
THIRD SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

taking<sup>+</sup>  
faith  
home

*Joyous news for the needy.*

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

|           |                      |                               |
|-----------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Luke 3:7-18          | One more powerful is coming   |
| Monday    | Zephaniah 3:14-20    | A song of joy                 |
| Tuesday   | Philippians 4:4-7    | The Lord is near              |
| Wednesday | Isaiah 55:6-13       | Invitation to abundant life   |
| Thursday  | 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 | Encouragement to be generous  |
| Friday    | Proverbs 15:23       | Expressing joy with our words |
| Saturday  | Isaiah 12:2-6        | Thanksgiving and praise       |
| Sunday    | Luke 1:39-55         | Mary visits Elizabeth         |

#### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*So, with many other exhortations, he [John the Baptist] proclaimed the good news to the people. Luke 3:18 (NRSV)*

#### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

##### **A Prayer for the Week:**

God of love, bring your joy and compassion to those in need and help us to change our ways when we are insensitive to others, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

##### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, with this food give us joy to know that you care for us every day of our lives through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

##### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the power and love of God give you joy through Christ our Lord.



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DECEMBER 26, 2021  
FIRST SUNDAY  
AFTER CHRISTMAS

taking+  
faith  
home

*Jesus grew in divine and human approval.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

|           |                      |                                |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Luke 2:41-52         | The boy Jesus at the temple    |
| Monday    | 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 | Samuel at Shiloh               |
| Tuesday   | Colossians 3:12-17   | The new life in Christ         |
| Wednesday | Galatians 1:10-24    | How Paul became an apostle     |
| Thursday  | Exodus 24:1-8        | The people agree to obey God   |
| Friday    | 1 Corinthians 4:1-5  | Ministry of the apostles       |
| Saturday  | Psalms 148           | Let all things praise the Lord |
| Sunday    | John 1:1-18          | The Word became flesh          |

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor. Luke 2:52 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, we give you thanks for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to grow in wisdom and in the knowledge of your grace. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Praise the Lord! We thank you for all your goodness and mercy, including the gift of this food. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May you grow in grace to know the joy and peace of God's love for you in Christ Jesus, born in Bethlehem.



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DECEMBER 24-25, 2021  
CHRISTMAS EVE,  
CHRISTMAS DAY

taking+  
faith  
home

*In Jesus we find hope and see God's glory.*

### CHRISTMAS BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Christmas celebration.

|          |                             |                                              |
|----------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Friday   | Isaiah 9:2-7<br>Luke 2:1-20 | The coming king<br>The birth of Jesus        |
| Saturday | Titus 3:4-7<br>John 1:1-14  | Maintain good deeds<br>The Word became flesh |

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." Luke 2:14 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for Christmas:**

Loving God, we thank you for the hope you give us and all the world to overcome hurts and disappointments through Jesus, born in Bethlehem. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

God, thank you for this special day; bless all we do and all we say. May we each enjoy your blessings, as Jesus' birth we celebrate. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, bless you with hope, peace, joy, and love.



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Northern Great  
Lakes Synod  
[www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org)

# 2021 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## **CHRISTMAS EVE** *and* **WORSHIP DETAILS**



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

# December

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