



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

737 Barracksvue Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63125-5409
314-892-5610
peacelutheranstl.org

DIVINE SERVICES

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.; Sunday: 8:00, 9:20, & 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. Jon C. Furgeson, Senior Pastor, 314-601-1039

Rev. Robert M. Brown, Associate Pastor, 618-580-8817

The Rev. Dr. Dennis A. Kastens, Pastor Emeritus

Burnell L. Hackman, Director of Music Ministry

Christina Stackle, Director of Christian Education

Sue Velten, Director of Early Childhood

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2023

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Divine Service, Setting Three

WELCOME TO PEACE! If you are a guest, please fill out the Visitor side of one of the attendance cards found in the pew rack. Let us know if you would like us to contact you. We are happy to have you worshipping with us today!

CHRIST'S BODY AND BLOOD, for the forgiveness of sins, are truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine in the Sacrament of the Altar. Due to theological differences among Christians regarding beliefs about this Supper, only confirmed members of an LCMS church are invited to the Lord's table. Ask a pastor if you have questions or concerns. Please register your taking of communion on your attendance card.

P = Pastor

* = Stand

C = Congregation

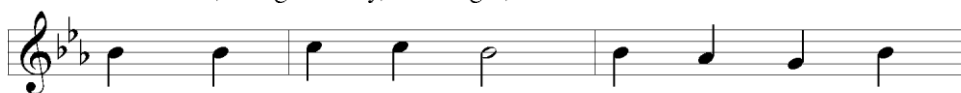
Opening Voluntary

*Opening Hymn

LSB 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -

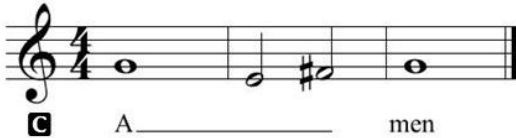


works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

*Invocation

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.



*Opening Sentences

Psalms 40:1–3

P I waited patiently for the LORD;

C He inclined to me and heard my cry.

P He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,

C And set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

P He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

C Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

*Confession

1 Thessalonians 5:23–24

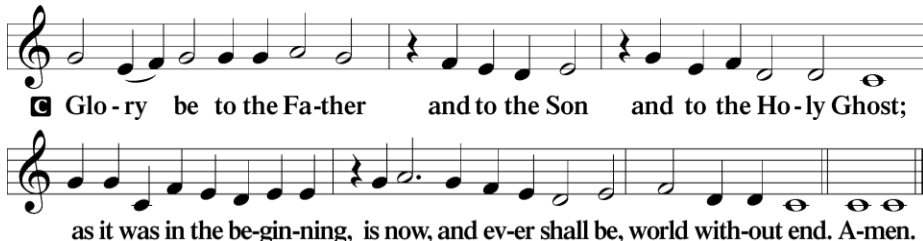
P That we may rejoice in the great things our forgiving God does for us, let us together confess our sins before Him.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we do and by what we fail to do. Instead of looking to Jesus and following Him in faith, we have gone astray by disobeying Your Word. Instead of giving bold witness to You, we have kept silent and withheld Your grace from others. For the sake of our Savior and King, have mercy on us. Forgive us and restore us. Guide us and renew us. Help us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

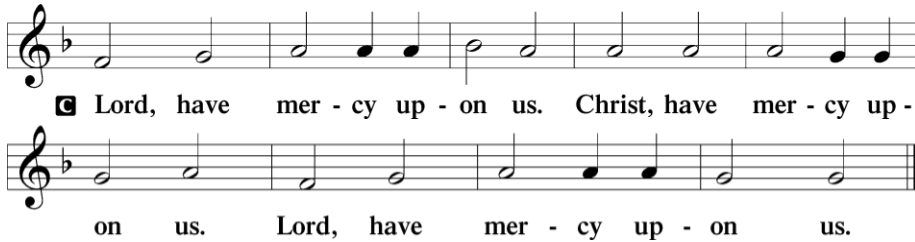
*Absolution



*Gloria Patri



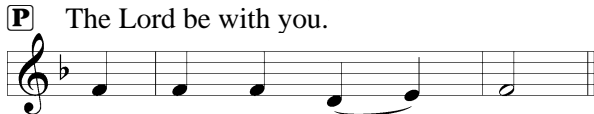
*Kyrie



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.


*Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray. . .



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

¹The 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; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to 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. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. . . .

⁸For 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. ⁹Their 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. ¹⁰I 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. ¹¹For 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now 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. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***Alleluia**



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

***Holy Gospel**

John 1:6–8, 19–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He 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.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

*Nicene Creed

C 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 Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of The Day

LSB 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo-ple to de-liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now Thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

Sermon Notes:

Gathering of the Offering *Please fill out an attendance card and place in the offering plate*

Offertory Anthem (10:30)*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

FREU DICH SEHR/David A. dSilva

***Offertory**

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church**Lord's Prayer**

☐ Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

*Preface

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

*Proper Preface

P We should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, almighty Father, 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 singing:

*Sanctus




C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
 Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

*The Words of Our Lord


*Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



A - men.

*Agnus Dei



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
 world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
 tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
 world, grant us Thy peace. **A** - men.

Distribution Hymn

LSB 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
 3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
 gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
 in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
 With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
 That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
 wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
 glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Distribution Hymn

LSB 343 Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Distribution Hymn

LSB 515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride-groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



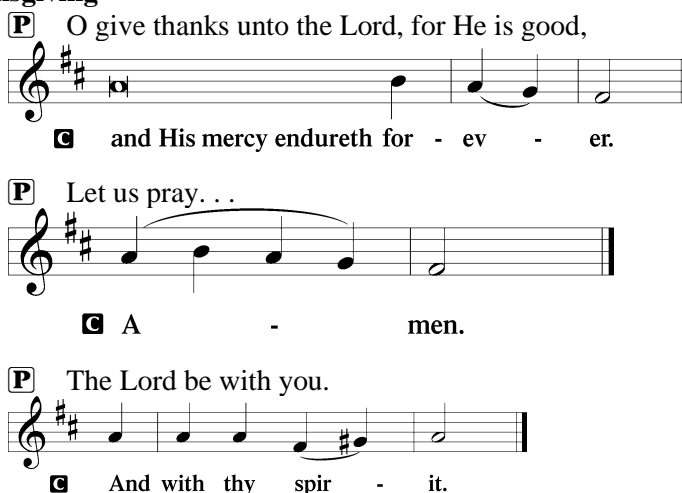
Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride-groom is at hand.
In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

*Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A-men.

*Thanksgiving



P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.
P Let us pray. . .
C A - men.
P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.

*Benedicamus

P Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

*Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

*Hymn to Depart

LSB 350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

*Silent Prayer

Closing Voluntary

Acknowledgments

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SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP:

Preacher: Pastor Jon Furgeson

Liturgist: Pastor Robert Brown

Organist: 5:00 & 8:00: Michelle Sliger; 9:20 & 10:30: Kendra Ruesler

Choir: Chancel Choir

Choir Director: Burnell Hackman, DMM

KFUO AM 850 Announcer/Audio Engineer/Video Engineer: A. Hopfer/D.Gerfen/L. Palma

Elders: 5:00: John Hooss, Steve Kienstra; 8:00: Rick Goodman, Art Hoeflerlin;

9:20: Mark Maloy, John Roesch; 10:30: Dave Carlson, Jonathan Gathman

Ushers: 5:00: Bill Petrovic, Jakob Beutelmann, Kevin Beutelmann, Don Hopkins, Gary Stinnett;

8:00: Joe Sneed, Jon Caron, Dave Dippold, Joe Doskal, Tyler Rainey, Todd Tanner;

9:20: John Roesch, Owen Bullard, Joe Roesch, Bill Schlegel, Ed Stackle;

10:30: Mike Murphy, Caleb Mirly, Lynn Oster, Roger Rakers, Matt Thiel,

Bob Uthoff, Rob Uthoff, Ken Werkmeister

Acolytes: 5:00: Cole Becker; 8:00: Avery Caron, Rachel McElroy;

10:30: Paige Keiser, Lucie Wildman

Greeters: 8:00: Carol Gibbons; 9:20 & 10:30: Jerry & Pam Schulze

Altar Committee: Angie Fischer and Grace Truemper

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS now adorn our Sanctuary. A list of those who purchased poinsettias will be displayed in the Commons. Poinsettias will be available for pick up after January 7.

JOIN US FOR ADVENT DINNER AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE this week.

Dinner will be hosted by the Youth and begins at 5:00 p.m. in the gym, serving a taco bar. Our Children's Christmas Service is at 6:30 p.m. A cookie reception will follow the service.

CHRISTMAS AT PEACE is this afternoon, Sunday, December 17, 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, featuring the Orchestra of Peace, Bells of Peace, with Special Guest, Soprano Christine Brewer. The concert is free and tickets are NOT required. The annual concert has become a Christmas tradition at Peace. You don't want to miss it!

FAMILY ADVENT DEVOTIONS are available for families with children in preschool through second grade. You will find a devotion book with matching ornaments to color in your mailbox. Extras can be found on the commons welcome center. There are 20 devotions to help you and your family learn more about the names of our Savior Jesus.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS WILL NOT BE HELD NEXT SUNDAY, December 24. Classes will resume on Sunday, December 31.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE IN MAILBOXES Please note that envelope numbers have been reassigned for 2024. Beginning January 1, please discard all prior year envelopes, and begin using your new 2024 envelopes. If you didn't receive envelopes, and would like to have a box, or if you received envelopes, but do not use physical envelopes for giving, please contact the church office.

ALASKA MISSIONS is currently collecting gloves and mittens. If you would like to donate, please place in the Alaska Mission Collection Box in the commons. Our Christmas Basket sales are in the gymnasium this weekend. Stonie Sausage sales also continue. We are grateful for the continued support of our wonderful church family.

PEACE LWML LADIES GUILD will meet this Thursday, December 21, at 11:00 a.m. for their Christmas Lunch get-together at Giannino's Restaurant, 4571 Chestnut Park Plaza. RSVP to Julia.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY is taking a break for the holidays and will resume Wednesday, January 3, continuing the study on the book of Genesis.

THE LIFE MINISTRY TEAM WILL BE TRAINING NEW MEMBERS and would like to invite anyone interested in joining the team. They sponsor various (Life Affirming) activities with the congregation: Sanctity of Life Sunday, Homebound Cards, Life Chain, Book Club, Cards for Confirmands, Movie Nights, and many more. If interested in joining this ministry team, contact Steve Andrews.

FAMILY SKATING PARTY – MARK YOUR CALENDARS! On Tuesday, January 2, 10:00 a.m. to noon, join us at Rock Roll-O-Rena in Arnold for a fun morning of skating. The event is FREE and is for all families. Sign up online or at the Commons Counter. See Christina Stackle for more information.

SUPPORT LUTHERAN EDUCATION Would you like to know how to direct some of your Missouri income tax dollars to help children attend Lutheran schools? Leah Sieveking, Missouri District LCMS Director of Advancement, is here this Sunday morning in the Commons to tell you how and to answer any questions. You can also email her at Leah.Sieveking@mo.lcms.org

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT OUR LIVESTREAM SERVICE Beginning in 2024, our Sunday morning worship service will no longer be livestreamed. Instead, the service will be recorded and available for viewing on our YouTube Channel by noon that day.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 17, 2023

- Sunday, December 17: 11:30am – Middle School Youth Christmas Party
3:00pm – Christmas at Peace Concert
- Monday, December 18: 6:00pm – Crossfire Volleyball
6:00pm – Preschool Christmas Program
7:00pm – BSA Troop Committee Meeting
7:00pm – Bells of Peace Rehearsal
- Tuesday, December 19: 9:00am – Quilters
9:00am – Plastic Mat Making
9:00am – Refit Exercise
6:00pm – Co-Ed Volleyball
6:00pm – Preschool Christmas Program
7:00pm – Property Management
- Wednesday, December 20: 9:00am – TPL Assembly
9:30am – Banner Committee
4:00pm – Junior Confirmation
5:00pm – Advent Dinner
6:30pm – Children's Christmas Service
- Thursday, December 21: 9:00am – Mary/Martha Bible Class
3:30pm – GPLS Basketball
6:00pm – Crossfire Volleyball
7:00pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:30pm – String Quartet Rehearsal
- Sunday, December 24: 8:00am – Last Sunday in Advent Worship Service
9:20am – Last Sunday in Advent Worship Service
10:30am – Last Sunday in Advent Worship Service
3:00pm – Christmas Eve Worship Service
5:00pm – Christmas Eve Worship Service
11:15pm – Christmas Candlelight Worship Service
- Monday, December 25: 9:30am – Christmas Day Worship Service



Christmas Eve

- 3:00 p.m. – Worship with Holy Communion
5:00 p.m. – Worship with Holy Communion
11:15 p.m. – Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

Christmas Day

- 9:30 a.m. – Worship with Holy Communion