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Growing Faith, Sharing Hope, Living Love!

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

*Enter expectantly, pray reverently, greet each other warmly,
listen thoughtfully, sing joyfully, and leave faithfully.*

Chief Elder and Head of the Church: Jesus Christ
Pastors: Rev. Mark V. Breland, Rev. Sayward E. G. Lippincott
Director of Music Ministries: Dr. Jeffrey S. Gemmell
Trombone Choir & Handbell Choir Director: Marilyn Winfield
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Allyson Miller
Lay Ministry Assistant: Greg Bomberger
Office Manager: Courtney Hackman
Administrative Assistant: Jaime Weik
Sexton: Josh Bailey
Custodian and Security: Dan Turnbull
Treasurer: Barbara McKenney
Financial Secretary: Mary Sweger
Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

**Stand, if you are able.*

Prayer for Meditation:

Holy One, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

Prelude: *Two Preludes on "Nun komm der Heiden Heiland"*

J. S. Bach, Helmut Walcha

Welcome, Announcements & Greeting

Due to Covid and flu concerns, it's okay not to shake hands. Just greet your neighbor with a smile, a word of greeting, fist or elbow bump. Please pass prayer request cards to the aisle for the ushers during the first hymn. Please sign the Friendship Register and pass it through the pew. Please see an Usher or Sacristan if you would like: headphones to assist the hearing-impaired, large print bulletins, walker, wheelchair, or activity bags to help busy young children.

Advent Wreath Lighting Liturgy 2024; First Sunday

Liturgy for Advent, Page 49

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayer

Scripture: Luke 21:25-36

‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’ Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

(10:30 a.m.) Children's Chat Hymn: *This Little Light of Mine*

*This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
Oh, this little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine
Everywhere I go
I'm going to let it shine
Everywhere I go
I'm going to let it shine
Everywhere I go
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine*

(10:30 a.m.) Children's Chat

Pastor Mark Breland

***Hymn: 258**

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Message: Jesus Is Coming

Pastor Mark Breland

The Offering of Tithes and Gifts

(8:00 a.m.) Offertory Organ Music

(10:30 a.m.) *There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth* Felix Mendelssohn

*There shall a star from Jacob come forth, and a sceptre from Israel rise up,
And dash in pieces princes and nations. As bright the star of morning gleams,
So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams of light and consolation!*

*Thy Word, Lord, radiance darting, truth imparting, gives salvation;
Thine be praise and adoration!*

***Offertory Response: 817**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Offertory Prayer**

***Hymn: 262**

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

***Benediction**

Postlude: *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*

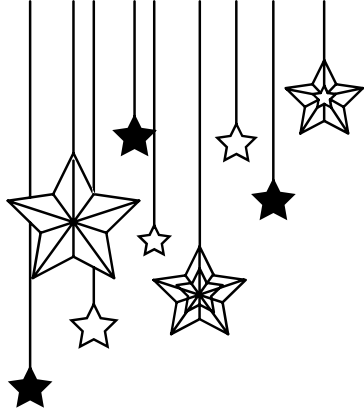
Johannes Pachelbel

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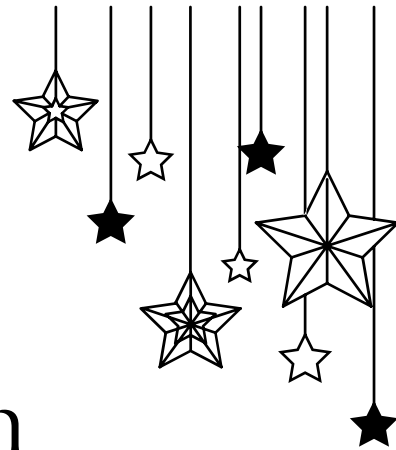
Serving Today:

Sacristan (8:00) Don Stoner (10:30) Jeff Elser
Head Usher (10:30) Darrin Donmoyer
Scripture Readers: (8:00) Teddy Flory (10:30) Steve Bell
Sound Booth Personnel: Chris Rickson
Nursery: Chris and Jessie Styers



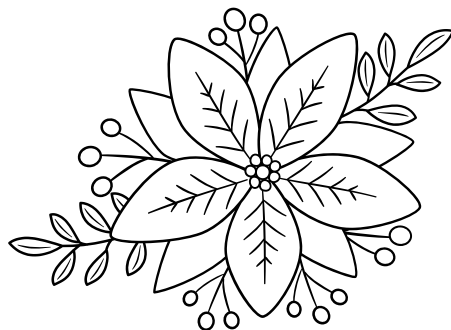


Vigil Ticket Information

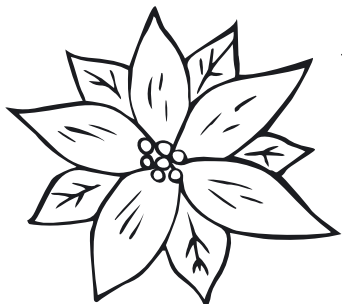


Don't forget that members'
Vigil admission cards
may be picked up today
following both worship services
in the Fellowship Hall.

*Thank
you!*



Many thanks to the Hartel Family
for blessing us again with the beautiful
Advent Poinsettia Tree!



Congregational Watchword for 2024:
 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
 Psalm 23:1

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please remember in your prayers this week all of our nursing home residents and shut-ins at home.

Please remember in your prayers:

Serving our country in the military:

Lt. Col. Neal Miller, Army;
 Sgt. Jason Stoner, Army Reserves;
 Lt. Dain Bomberger, US Navy;
 Major Andrew Kemp;
 Staff Sgt. Austin Heacock;
 Lance Corporal Shawn Stauffer, US Marine Corps

Prayers of Healing for:

Tiffany Skwarlo
 Barry Erb
 Dick Martin
 Harry Lefever
 Chad Hostetter
 Jonathan Yerger
 Marilyn Diener
 Nova Mentzer
 Jeff Bamberger
 Joy Sawyer
 Cynthia Good
 Larry Zimmerman

Pastoral Visitation:

Please contact Pastor Mark or Pastor Sayward to schedule a pastoral visit for yourself or family members.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Completed Month of October

	2023	2024
Tithes & Offerings	\$49,853	\$47,180
General Fund Other Income	\$518	\$8,642
General Fund Expenses	\$47,945	\$53,841
Net Income	\$2,426	\$1,981

YTD Through the Month of October

	2023	2024
Tithes & Offerings	\$492,017	\$471,190
General Fund Other Income	\$76,714	\$75,641
General Fund Expense	\$590,681	\$562,028
Net Income	(\$21,949)	(\$15,196)

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, December 1, 2024

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

2:30 p.m. Moravian Manor Service

Reminder → Members may pick up Vigil cards after each service today

Monday, December 2, 2024

10:00 a.m. Minis & Me - Dance Studio 

7:00 p.m. Christian Education Committee - RAO

7:30 p.m. Hand Bell Choir - Prep Room

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

8:30 a.m. Tai Chi Easy- Dance Studio

9:00 a.m. Quilting - Nursery 

6:00 p.m. Joint Board Meeting - Liquid Classroom

7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting - Outlook Library

7:00 p.m. Trustees - Liquid Classroom

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

8:30 a.m. Yoga - Fellowship Hall 

7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous - Social Hall

7:15 p.m. Senior Choir Practice - Sanctuary

Thursday, December 5, 2024

8:00 a.m. Candle Trimming - Prep Room (Lunch & sugar cake provided) 

10:00 a.m. Warwick Release Time

6:00 p.m. Linden Hall Vespers - Sanctuary

7:00 p.m. Yoga - Fellowship Hall


7:00 p.m. Church In Society - Outlook Library

Friday, December 6, 2024

9:00 a.m. Beginner Community Yoga - Fellowship Hall

6:00 p.m. Linden Hall Vespers - Sanctuary

Saturday, December 7, 2024

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Advent Tea - Fellowship Hall 

Sunday, December 8, 2024

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Worship Services

9:00 a.m. Snack N Yak

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

11:45 a.m. Birthday Celebration - Fellowship Hall 

Now Thank We All Our God

Today's Gospel is one of several passages that seem to describe the end of the world. Certainly we live in perilous times, with wars and threats of wars, negative social changes, a changing climate, fewer people active in our churches.

How do these verses speak to us? Some persons relate these verses to current political events, especially to the nation of Israel. Some see in these words the Roman destruction of Jerusalem about forty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. With the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple there, Jews became even more a scattered people, a diaspora, with religious life now centered in a local synagogue.

What might these say to us?

They ask us to beware of any who promise that life will be easy or try to deny the changes and questions around us. How do we as Christians relate to people who are not Christian? How do we manage living with a changing climate? How do we help those on the fringes of our society? In a secular culture, where do we find God?

The words of today's Gospel are sometimes heard as a threat. But they are, rather, a promise of God's ultimate triumph over evil. One way some Moravian congregations express this is in New Year's Eve services. At midnight, the start of the new year, we interrupt the service and burst into singing, "Now thank we all our God."

Hermann Weinlick, retired pastor, Minneapolis, Minnesota

The Moravian Church

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

