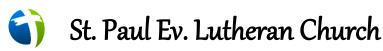


The Fourth Sunday in Advent December 24, A+D 2023



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> DIVINE SERVICE Setting 4 – Page 203 Lutheran Service Book

The Lord Builds a House for David: Jesus Christ Who Comes in the Flesh

When King David "lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies," he piously supposed that he would build a house for God (2 Sam. 7:1–2). But the Lord would turn it around: He would establish a house for David and an everlasting throne. This He has done not only for David, but also for all His people, in the Son of David, Jesus Christ, "conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary" (Apostles' Creed). That holy child, the incarnate "Son of the Most High," receives "the throne of his father David" and begins to reign "over the house of Jacob forever" (Luke 1:32–33). Having given Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, His body is the true and eternal temple of God in which His people have their own place of peace and rest. That is "the mystery that was kept secret for long ages" but is now "made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God" in order that we may have faith and life in Christ (Rom. 16:25–26).

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

Holy Baptism

593 See This Wonder in the Making

When candidates are unable to speak for themselves, the sponsors answer the questions on their behalf.

Stand

- In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." And the apostle Peter has written, "Baptism now saves you."

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

- P How is this child to be named?
- R Marina Rose Middleton

The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of each candidate while saying:

- P Marina Rose Middleton, receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your

 → forehead and upon your

 → heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.
- **P** Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the

Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold Marina Rose Middleton to Your boundless mercy and bless her with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in her which has been inherited from Adam and which she herself has committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that she be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, she would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

- Prom ancient times the Church has observed the custom of appointing sponsors for baptismal candidates and catechumens. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church sponsors are to confess the faith expressed in the Apostles' Creed and taught in the Small Catechism. They are, whenever possible, to witness the Baptism of those they sponsor. They are to pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are at all times to be examples to them of the holy life of faith in Christ and love for the neighbor.
- ls it your intention to serve Marina Rose Middleton as sponsors in the Christian faith?
- R Yes, with the help of God.
- P God enable you both to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.
- C Amen.
- P Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

They brought young children to [Jesus] that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

The pastor places his hands on the head(s) of the candidate(s), and the congregation joins in praying:

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.

Sit

The pastor addresses the candidate(s) and asks the following questions:

- P Marina Rose Middleton, do you renounce the devil?
- Yes, I renounce him.
- P Do you renounce all his works?
- Yes, I renounce them.
- **P** Do you renounce all his ways?
- Yes, I renounce them.
- P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?
- Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?
- Yes, I believe 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.

- P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
- Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.
- P Do you desire to have Marina Rose Middleton baptized?
- R Yes, we do.

The pastor pours water three times on the head of each candidate while saying:

- P Marina Rose Middleton, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized while saying:

- The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life
 → everlasting.
- C Amen.

The pastor may place a white garment on the newly baptized while saying:

P Receive this white garment to show that you have been clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covers all your sin. So shall you stand without fear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the inheritance prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

The pastor may light a baptismal candle from the paschal candle and give it to the newly baptized while saying:

P Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

The newly baptized may be welcomed with the following:

- A In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you a member of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our sister in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.
- Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord.

Stand

P Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted Marina Rose Middleton the new birth in Holy Baptism and made her a member of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir of Your heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as she has now become Your child, You would keep her in his baptismal grace, that according to Your good pleasure she may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- C Amen.
- P Peace

 → be with you.
- C Amen.

All return to their places.

365 Away in a Manger

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5-6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b

- P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
- let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.
- P The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
- In them he has set a tent for the sun,
- P which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
- and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.
- lts rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them.
- and there is nothing hidden from its heat.
- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
- let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Let us pray.
 Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God. now and forever.
- C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A The Old Testament Reading for The Fourth Sunday in Advent is from the seventh chapter of the Second Book of Samuel.

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? 61 have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" 8Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house....

¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Epistle Romans 16:25–27

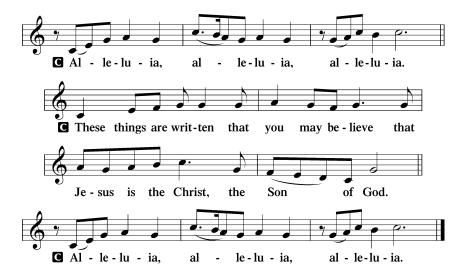
A The Second Reading is from the sixteenth chapter of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans.

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel Luke 1:26–38

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort

of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Sermon Text: Luke 1:26-38

Sermon Title: The Importance of The Virgin Birth

Gathering of Tithes & Offerings

If you are submitting a prayer request on a prayer card, kindly hand it directly to the usher. Do not place it into the offering plate.

Musical Offering

Stand

806 Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Prayer of the Church

159

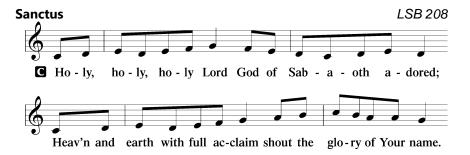
- P . . . Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.

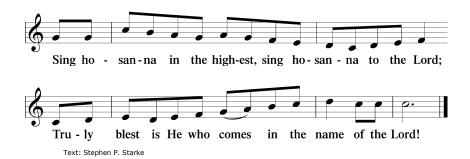
Service of the Sacrament

Stand

Preface LSB 208

- P The Lord be with you.
- **a** And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **G** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:





Prayer of Thanksgiving

P 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.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

The Words of Our Lord

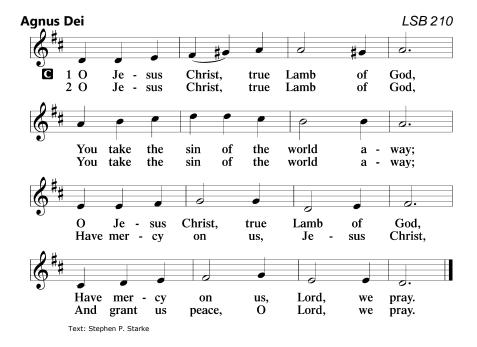
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My → body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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 I 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

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.



Sit

Distribution of Christ's Body and Blood

Members of other Christian denominations who are present may come forward to receive a blessing from the Pastor during the distribution. It is requested that you cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you desire this blessing.

Silent Prayer Just Before Communing: Dear Savior, at your gracious invitation, I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Silent Prayer Just After Communing: Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament. I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your

divine grace the forgiveness of sins unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Stand

The Dismissal

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart → in peace.
- C Amen.



Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Benedicamus LSB 212

- A Let us bless the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and → give you peace.

C Amen.

370 What Child Is This

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Acknowledgments

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Prayer of the church is adapted from "Let us Pray" a service of the Commission on Worship of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.



December 24, 2023

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

ST. PAUL'S FAMILY

Earl Bloom Sandy Bodza
Bob & Deb Brandy Sharon Brazil
Sondra Budde Christopher Budde

BIRTHDAYS

Chris Baker, 12/30

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

Dominic Ramirez, 12/25
Nathan Lopez, 12/27
Annelise Rodenberg, 12/27
Isabella Ramirez, 12/28
Nolan Gallagher, 12/27
Abigal Rodenberg, 12/27
Camden Wisely, 12/27
Jayden Wisely, 12/30

SPECIAL CONCERNS

Asleep in Jesus-Dorothy Van Mynen, a lifelong member of our congregation entered eternity on Tuesday December 18, 2023. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family and friends. We mourn with the family in their time of grief and also rejoice with them in the resurrection promises of our Lord, Jesus Christ. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." (Revelation 2:10)

Pray for Diane Akers, Norma Allen, Janice Abel, Sondra Budde, Jay Carey, Carmen Dampier, Judy Diekleman, Latricia Harris, Ed Hoeksema Jr., Chester Orendorff, Violet Rich, Dolly Tagenhorst, Warren Van Mynen, Gene Wiltjer, Ray Zander.

Serving in the Military – Austin Brandy, David Capodagli, James Fluechtling, Nathan Lopez, and Robert Wisely.

Serving as First Responders – David Allen, Dave Bloom, Nathan Conway, Brianne Giba, Melanie Hudson, Brian Orth, Dana Tatgenhorst, Taylor VanDommelen and Dan Zander.

NEWS UPDATE



Under the theme of "Celebrating A World of Music," the 2024 Rose Parade will take place at 8 a.m. Pacific Time on January 1 in Pasadena, California. The Lutheran Hour Ministries float "Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord" will be entered as the only Christian float in the parade to carry

on its mission of providing a Gospel witness to viewers everywhere, from along the parade route to televisions worldwide.



St. Paul Book Club will meet Wednesday January 10, to review *The Discovery* by Dan Walsh. We usually meet at 10am on the second Wednesday of the month and always welcome new members. Book Club is in person and thru FB chat. Please let Deb know in advance so she can link you in.

Christ For You this week on KFUO.org: Enjoy the Twelve Days of Christmas on KFUO Radio, with special Christmas music, Scripture, and greetings until January 6. Blessed Christmas! Christ is born!

Sacred Music & Talk For The Christmas Season... You can listen 24/7 to sacred talk and music for the 12 days of Christmas at issuesetc.org, lutheranpublicardio.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, TuneIn, Apple HomePod and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

We'd love to see you in worship. Our worship services are every Sunday at 9:30 AM. If you are unable to attend it can be viewed on Facebook live at https://www.facebook.com/splcms/videos. A previous recording is also available. Bulletins for the services are available for viewing or download on our website at https://www.splcms.org/worship.

"This time of the year always fills us with cheer | But the reason we celebrate is not always clear | The cookies, the lights, the presents, the tree | The carols, the decorations, the family parties | But all of the delight and all of the fun | Does not mean a thing if we don't know God's Son | The tiny baby that was born to die | Can sometimes cause us to stop and ask why | Do we really deserve the sacrifice He made? | Are we worth the offering and the price that was paid? | In His eyes, we are, because He made us His own | And on the cross, the ultimate love was shown | So take joy in the season and spread His true love | But always remember the

gift from above!" Jerrod Nelson – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

A Visit from an Angel

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. Luke 1:30-31 Based on Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)



P	Μ	J	Ε	L	Ι	Z	Α	В	Е	Т	Н	Ν	X	X	
Ν	J	Α	0	I	Р	М	K	В	Т	0	W	Т	V	Q	
U	Α	E	R	S	0	Μ	P	V	0	Н	U	Α	D	K	
Z	М	Z	S	R	Е	В	Α	0	Ι	R	R	Υ	R	Υ	
J	Α	Α	Α	U	Ι	Р	F	R	s	R	Ν	0	0	В	
R	F	Ν	0	R	S	E	Н	Z	Υ	S	G	Χ	Ν	Ι	
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Z	Α	E	G	I	Q	Т	Н	0	I	L	W	В	Ν	I	
Н	I	L	Α	Ν	I	S	Н	Т	R	D	Q	Н	L	Υ	
G	D	C	L	G	D	Α	L	Н	Т	Α	0	٧	W	Е	
Ι	S	Υ	Ι	D	D	E	U	Ι	Н	٧	Н	0	0	Q	
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Υ	Υ	C	Е	G	Α	В	R	Ι	Е	L	0	Т	Ν	Н	
Α	М	E	В	W	Χ	F	K	U	F	Т	G	I	W	R	

THRONE	AFRAID	JESUS	MARY	MARRIED
JOSEPH	IMPOSSIBLE	BIRTH	GALILEE	VIRGIN
DAVID	SON	TOWN	NAZARETH	GABRIEL
NOTHING	ELIZABETH	BORN	KINGDOM	ANGEL

GOD'S PEOPLE IN ACTION

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS

December 13th Attendance 18 December 17th Attendance 23, 18 Communed, 2 Online

Basket	\$30.00	Weekly Missions	\$30.00	
Envelopes	686.00	Luth. Church Charity	35.00	
General Fund	150.00	Church Maint	10.00	
Free Will	25.00	Social Ministry	25.00	
Advent	142.00			
Budgeted Total	1,033.00	Non-budgeted Total	\$100.00	
Offering Needed	1,233.00			
Short	\$-200,00			



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Today 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee &...

6:00 pm Candlelight Worship Service

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Pastor

9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee &...

SERVANT SCHEDULE

Dec 24, 9:30 AM
Pastor Fluechtling

Dec 31, 9:30 AM
Pastor Fluechtling

Usher Dave Bloom Lay Reader Tracy Middleton

DONATIONS







GENERAL FUND