

# THE WEEKLY WORD - ANNOUNCEMENTS



## CHRISTMAS PLANTS

ORDER A CHRISTMAS PLANT IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE OR TO THE GLORY OF GOD TO BEAUTIFY THE SANCTUARY FOR CHRISTMAS EVE.

**\$20 EACH**



## FAMILY CHRISTMAS BINGO

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 | 6-7:30 PM

### PRIZE DONATIONS NEEDED:

- Prizes for children, families and older individuals
- Prizes do not need to be extravagant or expensive
- Donations can be dropped off in the church office until *Thursday, December 12th*

Along with playing Christmas Bingo we will have children's crafts and snacks available. The Family Christmas Bingo is for **all ages**, because we all belong to the LCOOR family!

## DECEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

LCOOR Care Fund

**Mission of the Month dollars are above and beyond your regular giving. Please clearly mark your offering with Mission of the Month.**



## COOKIES NEEDED

Sandwich Ministry is in need of cookies. We have cookie kits available for pick up at the Welcome Center or church office. You can also bake your own & drop them off at the church. Thank you!



## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE *Worship with Us*

- Sunday, December 15, 9:30 a.m.**  
Church School Christmas Program
- Wednesday, December 18, 6:30 p.m.**  
Church School Christmas Program
- Tuesday, December 24, 1:00 p.m.**  
Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion
- Tuesday, December 24, 3:30 p.m.**  
Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion
- Tuesday, December 24, 5:30 p.m.**  
Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion



## SALVATION ARMY DONATIONS

**NEEDS A PANTRY RESTOCK**

As you go grocery shopping, please consider picking up a couple extras to donate. Drop these items off at LCOOR and we will deliver them to the Salvation Army. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



## SEW TRUE QUILTING BIBLE STUDY

Beginning in January, Pastor Laura will be leading a new monthly quilting Bible study on the first Tuesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. **Sign up at the Welcome Center.**



## *Caring Casseroles*

Our "Caring Casseroles" ministry provides a variety of delicious casseroles for you to deliver to friends and neighbors. A freezer filled with casseroles is located in Twila's office. Please stop by and pick up one (or two) and share in this caring ministry. ❤️

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

If your Christmas plans include worshipping here at LCOOR, please consider helping during worship. Each service will need greeters, ushers, communion servers and readers. You can sign up via the church website or stop by the Welcome Center. Thank you!

## Special Music Welcome

This could be singing, instrumental, group, solo or even a family venture. Please contact Kristy Tostenson, Praise & Rejoice Choir Director at (605) 949-1372 if you are interested.



# Calendar: December 8-18

## Sunday December 8

8:30 a.m. Church School  
8:30 a.m. Confirmation Workshop  
8:30 a.m. The Word Made Flesh Bible Study  
9:30 a.m. Worship (New Members Received)  
9:30 a.m. 1st Grade Christmas Story Milestone Recognition  
10:30 a.m. Church Council Meeting  
10:30 a.m. Praise & Rejoice Choir Rehearsal

## Monday December 9

8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry  
6:45 p.m. Al-Anon

## Tuesday December 10

11:00 a.m. Text Study  
1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting  
6:00 p.m. Executive Committee  
6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting

## Wednesday December 11

8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry  
9:30 a.m. Combined Circle Christmas Gathering  
12:15 p.m. Men's Lunch  
4:45 p.m. Community Meal (Goulash)  
5:30 p.m. Church School  
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Workshop  
6:30 p.m. Worship (New Members Received)  
7:15 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal

## Thursday December 12

10:45 a.m. Preschool Chapel  
5:15 p.m. Al-Anon  
6:00 p.m. Follow Bible Study with Pastor Dan

## Friday December 13

Church Office Closes at Noon  
8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry

## Saturday December 14

5:30 p.m. Traditional Worship

## Sunday December 15

8:30 a.m. Church School  
8:30 a.m. Confirmation Workshop  
8:30 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Dan  
9:30 a.m. Church School Christmas Program  
10:30 a.m. Praise & Rejoice Choir Rehearsal  
6:00-7:30 p.m. LCOOR Family Fun Night Christmas Bingo

## Monday December 16

January Newsletter Deadline  
8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry  
6:45 p.m. Al-Anon

## Tuesday December 17

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Group  
11:00 a.m. Text Study  
1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

## Wednesday December 18

Christmas Plant Order Deadline  
8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry  
10:00 a.m. Preschool Christmas Program  
12:15 p.m. Men's Lunch  
4:45 p.m. Community Meal (Pizza)  
5:30 p.m. Church School  
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Workshop  
6:30 p.m. Church School Christmas Program  
7:15 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal

## Attendance & Offering

November 24 Live Stream- 108  
Saturday, November 30- 48  
Sunday, December 1- 254  
Wednesday, November 27- Thanksgiving Break

### Offering (11/27-12/1):

General Fund: \$8,050;  
Mission of the Month: \$125.36;  
Debt Reduction: \$20;  
Other: \$60;

### Simply Giving Offering (11/25-11/29):

General Fund: \$3,970.75;  
Debt Reduction: \$230;  
Mission of the Month: \$30;  
Other: \$50;

## Staff

### Senior Pastor

Dan Overbo

### Associate Pastor

Laura Overbo

### Welcoming & Caring Ministries

Twila Schmitt

### Director of Faith Formation

Philip Lickei

### Business Manager

Jodi Spilde

### Business Administrative Assistant

Megan Thyen

### Preschool

Nikki Landmark, Director/Teacher  
Wendy Kruger, Paraprofessional & Faith Formation Assistant

### Sound & Technology

Zach Stanton

### Custodian

Roman Gainor

# DECEMBER 8, 2024 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Advent brings peace to God's people.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 3:1-6</b>	<b>Prepare the way of the Lord</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Malachi 3:1-4</b>	<b>The promised messenger</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Luke 1:68-79</b>	<b>Zechariah praises the Lord</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Mark 1:1-8</b>	<b>The preaching of John the Baptist</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Philippians 1:3-11</b>	<b>Peace to God's people</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Isaiah 40:1-11</b>	<b>A voice in the desert</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 126</b>	<b>Harvest of joy</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 3:7-18</b>	<b>One more powerful is coming</b>

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*[John the Baptist] went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as 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 3:3-4 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to prepare for your coming into our lives and world so that we may know your peace through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, bless this meal and our home this Advent with peace as we prepare for your coming. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May God guide you into the way of peace. (Luke 1:79)



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**DECEMBER 8, 2024**

**HYMN OF THE WEEK**

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

**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:

- To repent means “to turn around.” When is a time you were headed in the wrong direction and had to turn around?
- God does not come to us and leave us unchanged. How does God’s love shown in Jesus change you?

**DEVOTIONS**



*Read:* Luke 1:67-79.

This is a New Testament psalm known as the song of Zechariah. It is a very important song that has been used in the *Matins* (morning prayer) service over the centuries in the church. Zechariah is prophesying, meaning he is giving us a Spirit-filled message for our lives today. Zechariah prepares us for the fulfillment of God’s promise of salvation that is about to happen. The psalm is a beautiful testimony to “*the tender mercy of our God*” (v. 78) that will bring joy to the world. The promise of a messenger to prepare the way of the Lord (Malachi 3:1-4) is being fulfilled with the birth of Zechariah’s and Elizabeth’s son, John the Baptist. Reread Luke 1:67-79 and pause to feel the joy and gladness of Zechariah’s song with the message that will “*guide our feet into the way of peace*” (v. 79b).

*Discuss:* How does reading Zechariah’s song bring you peace and joy?

*Pray:* **Merciful God, you have prepared us for a joy we cannot fully imagine. Bless us now and always with the light of Christ to guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.**

**SERVICE**



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how might you help someone experience the peace of God’s presence?

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**



The second candle on the Advent Wreath symbolizes the theme of peace. Discuss or think about how preparing the way of the Lord can bring peace. Light the first candle of hope and the second candle of peace on the Advent Wreath.

*Say:* **Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.**

(Luke 1: 67, 76)

*Pray:* **Lord God, as we prepare for the coming of our Savior and Lord, guide our feet into the way of peace. 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)

