



**Second Sunday *of* Advent**

**ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI**

*(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)*

**IN JESUS' NAME WE WELCOME YOU!**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 10,**

**2023**

**WELCOME TO ZION.** It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will strengthen your faith and fill your heart with the peace only God can give and the joy we have in believing that JESUS CHRIST is our Savior from sin.

*This is the Second Sunday in the Advent season. In Advent the Word of God bids us prepare for the coming of Christ. The readings for Advent have this urgency to them: Since he is surely coming again in judgment, we desperately need for him to come to us first in grace. For without that coming in grace we will perish at his coming in judgment. The blue paraments are used to signify preparation for the coming of the Savior. We're preparing to celebrate when he came 2000 years ago that first Christmas, but we also are preparing for his coming at the end of this world when he comes back in the clouds of the sky. Blue is the color of the sky and of hope, the hope that we have in that glorious day.*

**WORSHIP FOCUS:** Christ is coming soon; let us always be prepared to meet him.

**The Hymn of the Day:** On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

The Hymn of the Day is a key element in the service. The practice of having a chief hymn for the day in the service has roots deep in historical, liturgical Lutheran worship tradition. Its purpose is to respond closely to the theme of the day.

Today's hymn echoes John the Baptist's message: Jesus is coming! May God keep our hearts ready!

**Liturgy: Service of the Word**

*CW pg. 38*

**OUR FAMILY AT WORSHIP**

**BATHROOMS** are located in the back of church, just down the hall toward the school. Please ask an usher for help finding them.

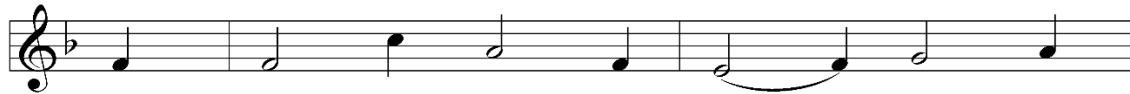
**HEARING ASSISTANCE EQUIPMENT** is available as part of our sound system. Individual hand-held units are available. Please check with an usher if you would like a unit for today's worship service.

**VISITORS** are asked to please sign our fellowship registry in the back of church so that we will have a record of your visit. Thank you for joining us today!

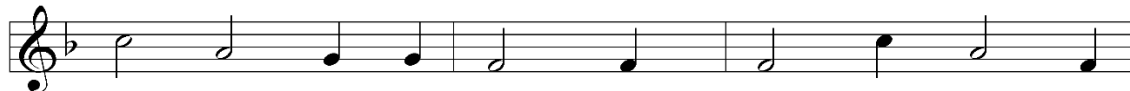
ADVENT

14

# Arise, O Christian People



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre -  
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him; Pre -  
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God  
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn



pare your - selves to - day. Pre - pare to greet the  
 pare for him the best. Cast out what would of -  
 rais - es up on high; Be - neath his feet in  
 not from me a - side, And help me to re -



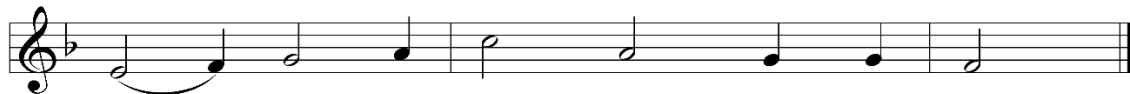
Sav - ior, Who takes your sins a - way. To  
 fend him, This great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make  
 ter - ror The haugh - ty soul shall lie. The  
 ceive you This bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From



us by grace a - lone The truth and  
 straight, make plain the way: The low - ly  
 heart sin - cere and right, That heeds God's  
 stall and man - ger low Come now to



light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from  
 val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -  
 in - vi - ta - tion, And makes true prep - a -  
 dwell with - in me; I'll sing your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.  
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.  
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.  
 glad - ly And forth your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62, alt.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, st. 1-3, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 4, alt.

Tune: AUS MEINES HERZENS GRUNDE (76 76 67 76) *New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein*, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

PLEASE STAND

## INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

## CONFESSION OF SINS AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

P: When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image. Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

C: **But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death. We too are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.**

P: However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death.

*Genesis 1:26; Romans 6:23*

ALL:

O, come, O, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
Un-til the Son of God ap-pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

P: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven. In view of God's mercy, today we light the *peace* candle. Jesus tells us, "Peace I leave with you; my *peace* I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid"

C: **Since we have been justified by faith, we have *peace* with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Galatians 4:4,5; John 14:27; Romans 5:1*

*Advent Candle is lighted*

ALL:

O, come, our Peace, who auth - ors faith, Per-féct our trust in  
you by grace. As-sure us by your gen - tle Word  
That in true faith we all en-dure. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

P: In the peace of God we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

**C: God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God.**

*2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

ALL:

Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

### BAPTISM OF JAYME BURKE:

P: Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded baptism when he said: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But Jesus took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. At our baptism he clothes us with the robe of his

righteousness and gives us a new life. Our sinful nature need not control us any longer. We recall what baptism means for our daily lives as we speak these words:

**C: Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

P: In obedience to the command of our Lord and trusting in his promise, you have brought Jayme to be baptized. Jesus told us: “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” It is in baptism that God grants the new life of forgiveness, joy, and peace to little children. By the power of God’s Word, this gracious water of life washes away sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe.

P: Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart (✠) to mark you as a redeemed child of Christ.

*The minister applies water to the person presented for baptism as he says:*

Jayme, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has forgiven all your sins. By your baptism, you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven. May God strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

*STAND*

#### **EXHORTATION**

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that Jayme may remain a child of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

**C: Yes, as God gives me strength.**

P: Let us pray:

Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of baptism by which you offer and grant the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Help us to regard our baptism as the robe of righteousness we are to wear all the days of our life. Look with special favor on Jayme and grant her a rich measure of your Spirit that she may grow in faith and godly living. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to those who have been baptized, so that all of us may finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**ADULT CHOIR:**

**“Advent Hymn”**

# THE WORD

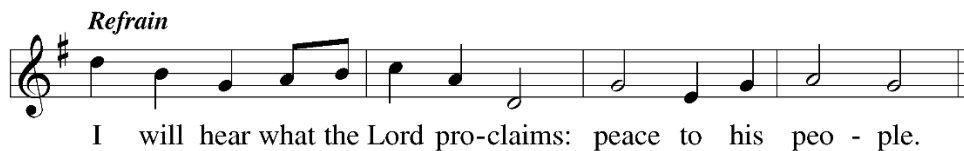
## First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

40 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." <sup>9</sup>You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. <sup>11</sup>He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. (EHV)

## Psalm 85

CW pg. 97



You showed favor to your land, O LORD;\*  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people\*  
and covered all their sins.

Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,\*  
and grant us your salvation.

## Refrain

*Refrain*



I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.

*Psalm tone*



I will listen to what God the LORD will say;\*  
he promises peace to his people, his saints.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,\*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together;\*  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**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.**

*Refrain*

Refrain Tune: From *The Psalms for the Day, Series C*. © 1976 Fortress Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

**Second Lesson**

**2 Peter 3:8-14**

<sup>8</sup> But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. <sup>11</sup> Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives <sup>12</sup> as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. <sup>13</sup> But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. <sup>14</sup> So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. (EHV)



## VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia. (Luke 3:4, 6 cf. NIV)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## GOSPEL

## Mark 1:1-8

**1** The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, <sup>2</sup>as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”— <sup>3</sup>“a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” <sup>4</sup>And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup>John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” (EHV)

ADVENT

# 16 On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And lift  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad -



es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,  
 nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our  
 uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we  
 us up to fall no more. Oh, make your face on  
 vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Good news a - bout the King of kings.  
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 us to shine, And fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, st. 1–3, alt.; composite, st. 4–5.

Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (LM) Latin melody, 15th century, adapt.

SERMON THEME:

## Listening to God Gives Comfort

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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.**

## MINISTRY

## 542 Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give



1 Dear Lord, to your true ser - vants give The grace to  
 2 They glad - ly go at your com - mand To spread your  
 3 When all their la - bor seems in vain, Re - vive their



you a - lone to live. Set free from sin to  
 Word o'er sea and land. Be with them, Lord, and  
 sink - ing hopes a - gain; And when suc - cess crowns



serve you, Lord, They go to share your  
 make them strong To heal sin's ills, to  
 what they do, Oh, keep them hum - ble,



liv - ing Word, The gos - pel mes - sage to pro -  
 right the wrong. Your rule is o - ver wind and  
 Lord, and true Un - til be - fore your judg - ment



claim That all may know your sav - ing name.  
 wave, And might - y is your arm to save.  
 seat They lay their tro - phies at your feet.

Text: W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.  
 Tune: MELITA (88 88 88) John B. Dykes, 1823–76.

## CLOSING PRAYER

P: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

## BENEDICTION

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (✠) give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

## CLOSING HYMN: CW 11

## “Comfort, Comfort All My People”

### ADVENT

# 11

## Comfort, Comfort All My People



1 “Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; Speak of peace,”  
2 All their sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out  
3 John the Bap - tist’s voice is cry - ing In the des -  
4 Straight - en out the crook - ed high - way; Make the rough -



so says our God. “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,  
each dark mis - deed; All that well de - serve his an - ger  
ert far and near, Call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance  
er plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



Groan - ing from their sor - rows’ load. Speak to all  
He no more will see or heed. They have suf -  
For the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn -  
Read - y for his ho - ly reign. For the glo -



Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;  
 fered man - y a day; Now their griefs have passed a - way.  
 ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
 ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is spread a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er,  
 God will change their ach - ing sad - ness  
 Let the val - leys rise to meet him  
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken



That their war - fare now is o - ver.”  
 In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 And the hills bow down to greet him.  
 That his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johannes Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
 Tune: FREU DICH SEHR (87 87 77 88) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.



Officiants

Accompanist: Deanna Schneck

Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Greg Sitzman

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## Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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**Principal: Bryan Schneck:** 907-331-7761; [bschneck@zionmonroe.org](mailto:bschneck@zionmonroe.org)

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**VOTER'S MEETING**— A new call meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. after the voter's meeting.

**PAULA'S HOUSE:** Once again this year Zion Church and School is supporting the women and the children who are staying at Paula's House. The giving tree is in the school hallway with gift tags. Please have the gift wrapped and returned to the school by **Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**. If you have time available and would like to come help us sort and label the gifts for delivery we are planning on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> after morning coffee at the Oasis (in the Zion gym) to begin work. Thank you in advance for all the support.

**FRIENDS IN FAITH:** A special event is coming in January. Friends In Faith is sponsoring a "baby shower" for our Pregnancy Care Center that is located in Redford, Michigan. Our "baby shower" will be **Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>** in the gymnasium. More information will be coming, including a wish list from the Pregnancy Care Center.

**OFFERING PLATE:** The Elders and Council have decided that as of Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> we are going to return to passing the offering plate.

**TUITION FUNDS FOR ZION SCHOOL** – There have been many questions recently regarding the Tuition Funds at Zion School. There are two separate funds:

- 1) "Zion Members Tuition Fund" – This is for members of Zion who send their children to Zion school but need assistance with their tuition.
- 2) "General Tuition Fund" – This is for students who attend Zion but are not members at Zion. This is to help them with the cost of attending school at Zion,

Individuals who are seeking assistance do have to apply for the help and provide information regarding why they have a need for assistance. If you would like to give to either of the funds at any time just indicate which fund on your church envelope. Thank you in advance for considering these funds.

### Coming up at Zion ....

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Second Advent Worship Service  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Class

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class  
5:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Second Midweek Advent Worship Service

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Third Advent Worship Service  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Class

## December Volunteers

	Nov. 29 & Dec. 3	Dec. 6 & 10	Dec. 13 & 17	Dec. 20	Dec. 24	Dec. 25	Dec. 31
Altar Guild			Linda Selvidge &	Diane Affholter			
Live Stream Helpers	Erich Freiny	Rob Krueger	Ryan Roth	Steve Sordahl	9:00 a.m. Miller Sordahl 7:00 p.m. William Robinson	Erich Freiny	Rob Krueger
Ushers	<u>Nov. 29</u> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger  <u>Dec. 3</u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier	<u>Dec. 6</u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier  <u>Dec. 10</u> Dave Bengé Alan Bober Matt Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson	<u>Dec. 13</u> Dave Bengé Alan Bober Matt Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson  <u>Dec. 17</u> Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach Turner	<u>Dec. 20</u> Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach Turner	<u>Dec. 24</u> Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach McCormick Zach Turner  <u>7:00 p.m.</u> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling Russ Vitale	<u>Dec. 25</u> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger	<u>Dec. 31</u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier
Communion Helpers	<u>Nov. 29</u> Mark Kipf  <u>Dec. 3</u> Jake Burke Alan Bober		<u>Dec. 13</u> Ken Vagt  <u>Dec. 17</u> Rob Krueger Mark Kipf				