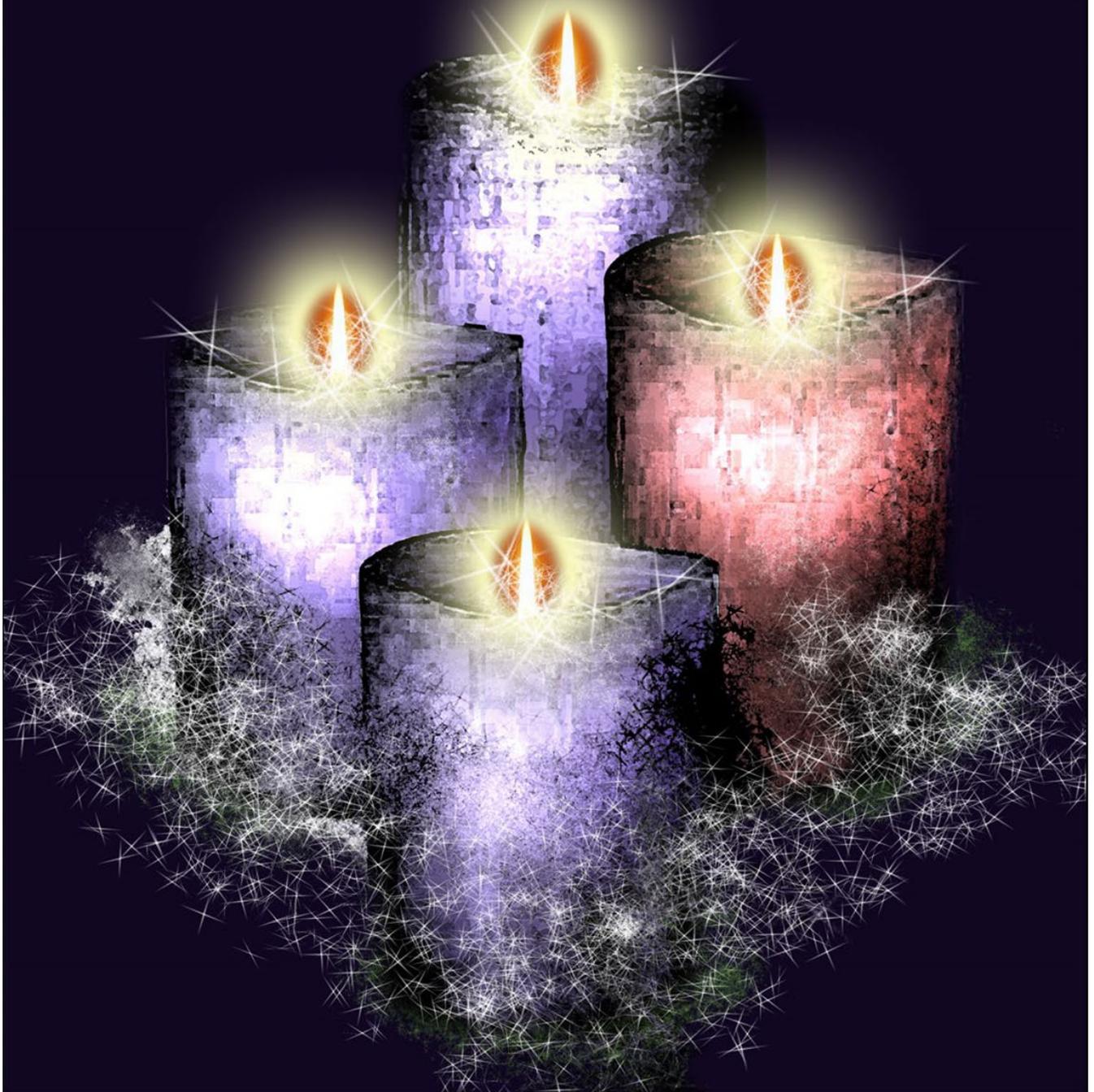


Fourth Sunday in Advent—“Tentatio”



New Life Ev. Lutheran Church

Lake Zurich, IL

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

Pastor Andrew Bauer
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www.newlife-wels.org

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Fourth Sunday in Advent **December 20, 2020**

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church. The bathrooms are located in the basement of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way. Also, refreshments are served in the basement after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.

Covid-19 Precautions / Reminders:

1. Every other pew will be taped off to create social distance.
2. Weather permitting, the windows will be open to create as much airflow as possible.
3. The hymnals have been removed from the pews. The hymns will be sung out of the bulletin or off the projector screens.
4. Worshippers are asked to pick up their own bulletin and take it home with them.
5. Offerings will be placed in the plate on the podium before or after the service.
6. The church council asks everyone to wear a mask, if possible. Masks are available in the entryway.
7. The pastor won't shake hands after the service.
8. Something to eat and drink will be offered after the service today in the fellowship hall.

Before Service Prayer: O Emmanuel, You came as promised and ransomed all those held captive by sin and death. Prepare our hearts for Christmas. Bless our pastor with faithfulness to proclaim Your powerful Word. Lead us to repent through the preaching of the law, and then lift our hope with Your gospel. Especially in this season, move us to a greater appreciation for the training You provide for our souls through "Tentatio," trials. As ancient believers looked forward to Your first coming, teach us to look forward to Your second coming. Amen.

Today's Service: "Lead Us to Your Light" GIA gathering rite and Service of the Word, NPH, reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #1132777.

Today's Theme: The third in Luther's triad for the making of a disciple is "Tentatio," trials and temptations. This may sound strange, that a disciple is made by being put through the proverbial "ringer," but God uses our trials as battle grounds for us to learn to rely more firmly on Jesus. They also serve as the mark of a disciple. Trials drive the disciple of Jesus back to "Oratio," prayer and "Meditatio," meditation on God's word.

Pastor's Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

C: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. (Is. 9:2)

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government shall be on His shoulders,

C: And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Is. 9:6)

P: Christ Himself has come down from heaven, has become incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and has become fully human.

C: He shared in our humanity. By His death He defeated the devil and destroyed the power of death and freed us from our fear of death and slavery to sin and death, forever. (Hebr. 2:14-15)

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, Your Son, our Savior became flesh and made His dwelling among us. In Him You have revealed Yourself, Your love and Your plan for all humanity. By His word, make us ready for His coming. Keep our hearts repentant, constantly turning to You as we face trials and temptation in this life. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation during this time of pandemic and sadness. Uphold us with Your free Spirit; through Him who came to give Himself for us to make us His own, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Four Advent candles are lit during the Opening Hymn. (tune, CW 48)

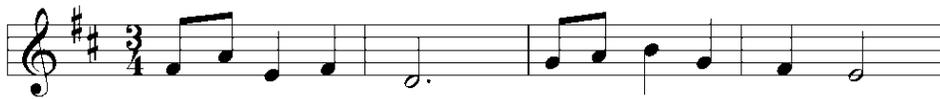
1 We light the Ad - vent can - dles A - gainst the win - ter night
5 Four can - dles burn - ing bright - ly An - nounce that Christ has come.

To wel - come our Lord Je - sus, Who is the world's true light;
Pre - pare, my heart, be - lieve it, And give the Christ Child room!

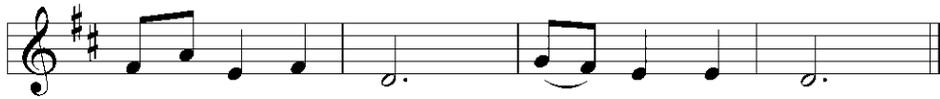
To wel - come our Lord Je - sus, Who is the world's true light.
Pre - pare, my heart, be - lieve it, And give the Christ Child room!

LEAD US TO YOUR LIGHT

The soloist introduces the refrain. Then the congregation repeats the refrain and sings it again as indicated. The soloist sings the verses.



Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark-ness.



Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.

Rouse us from sleep, wake us from our slumber,
Banish the darkness of night. **Refrain.**

Child of the light and love beyond all telling,
Fill our hearts with wonder and praise. **Refrain.**

GREETING

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



C: A - men.

P: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

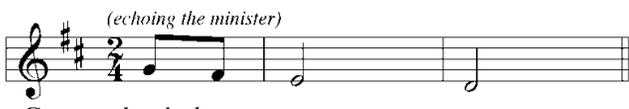


C: And al - so with you.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

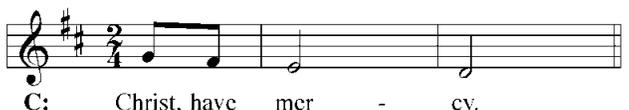
P: The Lord Jesus comes to us and offers His grace and love. It is good for us to repent of our sins and to plead for His mercy.

P: Lord Jesus, You came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom. Lord, have mercy.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

P: You come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Christ, have mercy.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

P: You will come in glory with salvation for Your people. Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical notation is on a single staff in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 2/4 time. It consists of four measures: a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, a half note F#4, and a quarter note G4.

P: May almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

C: A - men.

The musical notation is on a single staff in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 2/4 time. It consists of four measures: a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, a half note F#4, and a quarter note G4.

ABSOLUTION

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

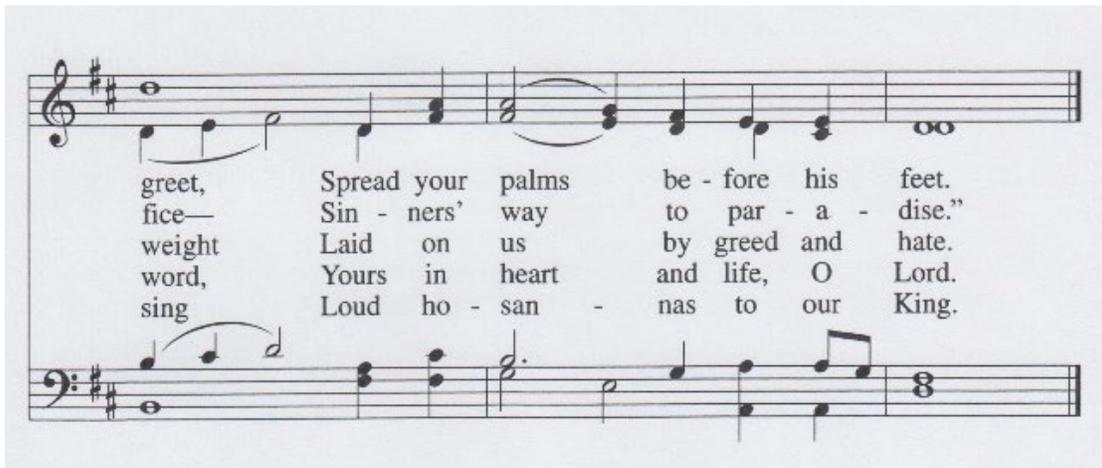
C: **Amen.** (*spoken*)

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord. (CWS 701)

1 Zi - on, at your shin - ing gates, See, the
2 Christ, your king - dom comes to - day As we
3 Come and give us peace with - in, Loose us
4 Give us grace your yoke to wear, Give us
5 So when you shall come a - gain, Lord of

King of glo - ry waits; Haste your mon - arch now to
hear your Spir - it say: "God's own Son, a sac - ri -
from the bands of sin, Take a - way the heav - y
strength your cross to bear, Make us yours in deed and
an - gels and of men, We with all your saints shall

The musical notation is on two staves, treble and bass clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the staves. The music consists of a series of chords and single notes, with some rests. The first staff has a treble clef and the second staff has a bass clef. The lyrics are written in a simple, sans-serif font.



Prayer of the Day

P: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of Your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with Your light; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.** (spoken)

The First Lesson: Job 2:7-10 (Job faced Tentatio. After losing his property and his seven sons and three daughters in one day, Job faced the additional challenge of losing his health. His condition was so pitiful his wife encouraged him to throw in the towel. However, "In all this, Job did not sin in what he said." The testing of Job was allowed by God and carried out by Satan. The goals were different. Satan wanted to destroy Job's faith, and thus destroy Job. God wanted Job to be strengthened in his faith through trials.)

⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. ⁸ Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.

⁹ His wife said to him, "Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!"

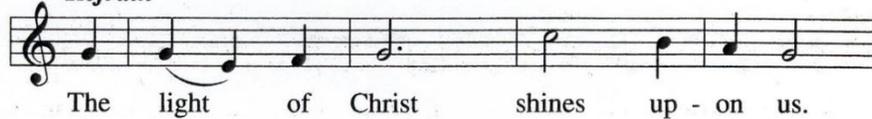
¹⁰ He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"

In all this, Job did not sin in what he said. (NIV 2011)



Psalm of the Day: 72 CWS

Refrain



The light of Christ shines up - on us.



Praise his glo - ri - ous name.

Psalm Tone



Endow the King with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.
He will defend the afflicted among the people
and save the children of the needy.

He will endure as long as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all generations.
He will be like rain falling on a mown field,
like showers watering the earth.

Refrain

All kings will bow down to him
and all nations will serve him.
All nations will be blessed through him,
and they will call him blessed.

May his name endure forever;
may it continue as long as the sun.
Praise be to the LORD God, who alone does marvelous deeds.
May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

**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

*The Second Lesson: **Romans 5:1-4** (The believer in Jesus “stands” in grace. The believer does not “stand” in grace one minute, and then not be standing in grace the next. Standing in grace means that “Tentatio” serves a good purpose in our lives, driving us back to God, driving us to prayer, producing endurance, character and hope.)*

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (NIV 2011)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia. (Matthew 11:10 cf. NIV)

Alleluia! Come, Lord Jesus!
Hear Thy people as they pray,
For the herald's voice awakes us,
Calls us to prepare the way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Anxiously we wait the Day! (CW 29)

*The Gospel Lesson: **Matthew 1:18-25** (It's easy to forget that Joseph faced his own trial. His wife had pledged her faithfulness to him. However, after Mary returned to Nazareth after visiting her relative Elizabeth, Mary was obviously pregnant, and Joseph knew that baby was not his. To think he had toiled to provide a place for himself and Mary, and now all of that effort appeared to be waste! What would he do now? Divorce seemed the only avenue, that is, until an angel of the Lord cleared things up and gave Joseph direction.)*

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a Son. And he gave Him the name Jesus. (NIV 2011)

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day: CW 17 “God’s Own Son Most Holy”

**God's own Son most holy Came a servant lowly,
Came to live among us, Came to suffer for us,
Bore the cross to save us, Hope and freedom gave us.**

**Still He comes within us; Still His voice would win us
From the sins that hurt us, Would to truth convert us
From our foolish errors Ere He comes in terrors.**

**Thus, if we have known Him And will not disown Him
Nor have loved Him coldly But will trust Him boldly,
He will then receive us, Heal us, and forgive us.**

**Those who then are loyal Find a welcome royal.
Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us.
Let us here confess You Till in heav'n we bless You.**

Sermon

A Creedal Hymn

**Creator of all things that are, the tiny atom, mighty star—
“Let there be light!” a voice was heard, the Father’s all-creating Word.
That Word made flesh with us to dwell is Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Our voices here combine to praise our God, divine!**

**By God the Holy Ghost conceived, from Mary human form received,
With us He lived, for us He died, by Pontius Pilate crucified.
Raised from the dead victorious, this is Christ Jesus, God with us!
Our many voices, one, sing praise to God the Son!**

**The Spirit of the Lord is sent, active in word and sacrament,
To bind the Church below, above, in cords of sin-forgiving love
Till, raised from death, we e’er shall dwell with Jesus, our Emmanuel.
With Son and Father praise to Spirit now we raise. (CW 4)**

The Offering (*Offerings can be placed in the plate on the table in the entryway either before or after the service.*)

The Offertory “Away in a Manger,” played by the Tone Chime Choir.

The Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

The Closing Collect

P: Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage and a hope that cannot be extinguished, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us, Your love supporting us and Your Son abiding with us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Benediction

P: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: The blessing of God Almighty—the Father who created us, the Son who saved us and shall return to welcome us home, and the Holy Spirit who creates and nourishes the faith that Jesus is the Lord—be with you now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: CW 12 “Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”

**Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.**

**He comes the captives to release, In Satan's prison held.
The gates of brass before Him burst; The iron fetters yield.**

**He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Your welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring With Your beloved name.**

Announcements

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: Berg / Bolzman

Today— Advent 4—Tentatio—Divine Service at 9:30 AM
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 10:45 AM
Preschool Christmas Program at 1:30 PM
Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

Wednesday—Sunday School rehearsal at 6:30 PM

Thursday—Christmas Eve Candlelight / Children's Service at 6:30 PM

Friday—Christmas Day Worship at 10:30 AM
No Men's Bible Class

Next Sunday—The First Sunday after Christmas—Divine Service with Holy Communion at 9:30 AM
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 10:45 AM
No Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM.

Volunteers are needed to bring something to eat and drink for fellowship on Sunday mornings. Please sign up on the sheet in the lower level.

Adult Bible Class will be held in the chapel this morning at 10:45. The class will be studying the Sixth Commandment this morning.

Offering envelopes for the calendar year 2021 have been assigned. You can pick up the offering envelopes off the table around the corner by the New Life café.

The packet of envelopes also contains an updated copy of the New Life Endowment Fund flier for 2021. The flier provides information on donations to the fund and contributions made from the fund.

Video of today's service AND AUDIO are being broadcast in the New Life Café for those who feel more comfortable being more socially distanced but still want to be in the Lord's house for the Lord's day.

The Preschool Christmas program will be held today at 1:30 PM. Normally, everyone is invited. However, due to Covid-19, only preschool parents are invited to attend with a maximum of two people per child.

Today is the last day to sign up to purchase a poinsettia plant or plants. Please see the sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Upcoming Special Services

Christmas Eve Day Children's Service

Thursday, Dec. 24th at 6:30 PM

Christmas Day Service

Friday, Dec. 25th at 10:30 AM