

LUKE 21:25

**THERE WILL
BE SIGNS
IN THE SUN,
THE MOON,
AND THE STARS**





The First Sunday of Advent

Saturday, November 27, 2021 5:00pm
Sunday, November 28, 2021 8:00 and 10:30 am

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

(8:00 & 10:30) “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” Resounding Joy!

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

(8:00 & 10:30) “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Resounding Joy!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ☩ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” vv. 1 & 4

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

(Continued on the next page.)

the eve-ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.

The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

FIRST SUNDAY - *The Wonder of Christmas*

Candle Lighting

Today we light the **first candle**. The first candle reminds us that the season of Advent is a time of unspeakable wonder. As we begin our Advent journey, let us stand amazed at the promise God has fulfilled, the love God has shown, and the joy God has given through the birth of Christ

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time to remember the wonders of our faith.
God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.
 Advent is a time to be amazed at God's wondrous love.
God has done wonderful things, thing planned long ago.

There is won - der in the hope of the birth of a

(Continued on the next page.)



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Advent is a time to retrace our past, and reclaim the hope of our future.

God has done wonderful things, thing planned long ago.

Advent is a time to be awed by God's unfolding plan for creation.

God has done wonderful things, thing planned long ago.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

ANTHEM (10:30)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

People of Praise

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 93

¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust
in you; let me not be put to
shame,

nor let my enemies

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,

**in you; let me not be put to
triumph over me.**

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for they are from everlasting.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O
LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A reading from First Thessalonians.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“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. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

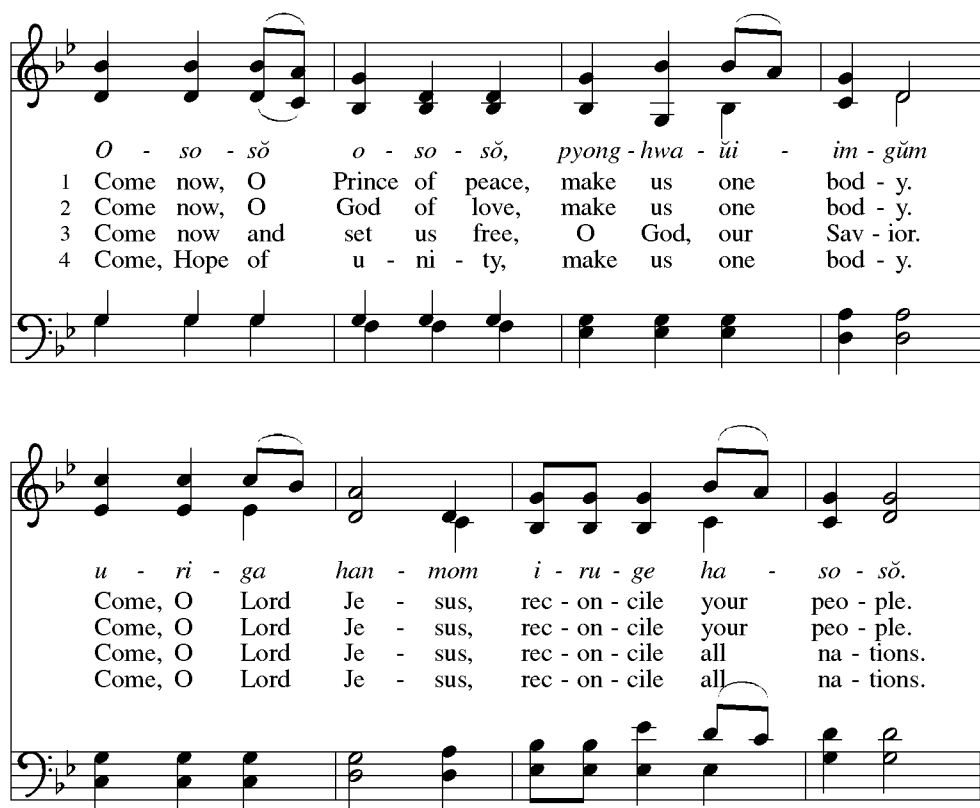
³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Come Now, O Prince of Peace!"



O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ŭi - im - gŭm

1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.

u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
 Music: OSOSO, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947
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NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

We give thanks to God for the gifts that God provides, and for the gifts that you share with the church. Offerings to the church may be placed in the box on the table near the entrance to worship or be sent through the mail, through automatic withdraw, or through the Tithe.ly app on our website.

OFFERING SONG "What Feast of Love"

1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?

What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?

This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man-na giv-en!

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and melodic, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a '1' indicating the first line of the song. The lyrics are: '1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?', 'What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?', 'This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.', and 'Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man-na giv-en!'.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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OFFERING PRAYER

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

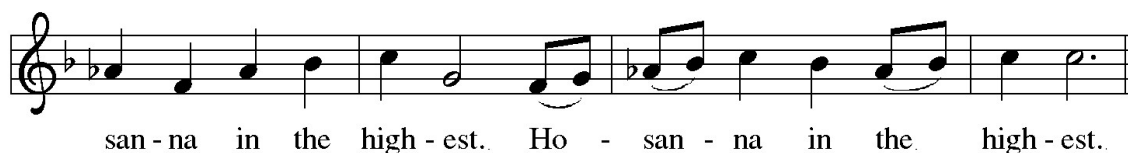
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the

high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and melodic, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,', 'heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the', and 'high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-'.

(Continued on the next page.)



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

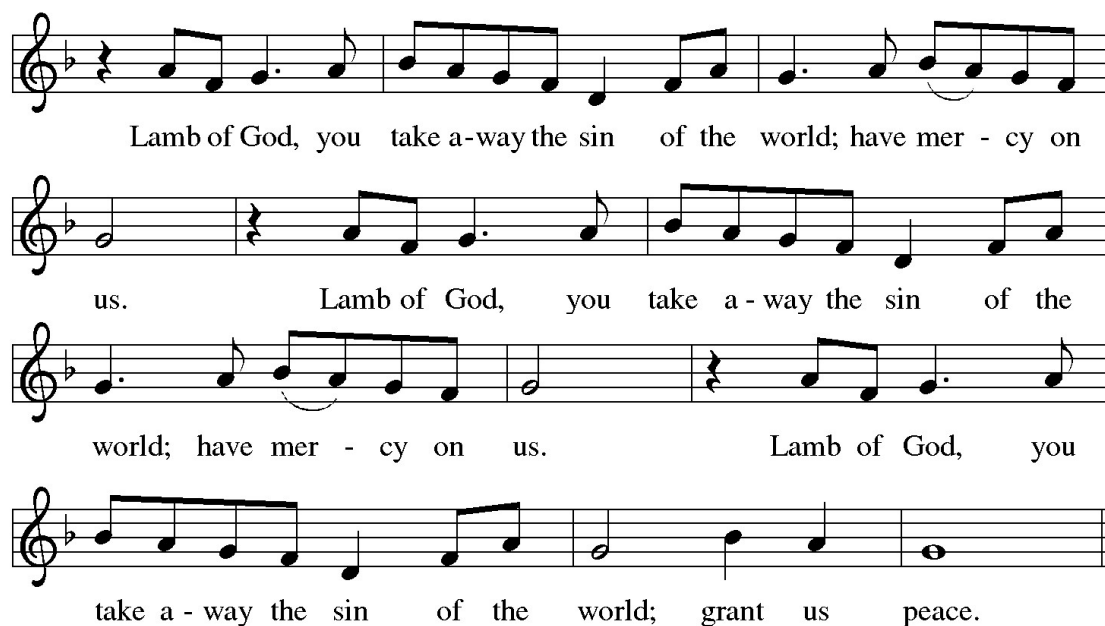
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

COMMUNION SONG



DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord's table. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion will receive a blessing.

Those worshiping with us at home may use their own bread and wine or juice for communion. On site, communion will be received at your seats. Having received the elements as you entered worship, you will take the chalice, and when directed by the pastor, you will remove the bottom cover to receive the bread. The pastor will say "Body of Christ given for you," and you will eat the bread. When directed by the pastor, you will remove the top cover to receive the wine or juice. The pastor will say, "Blood of Christ shed for you," and you will drink the wine or juice.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE “Good Christian Friends Rejoice”



3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866

Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

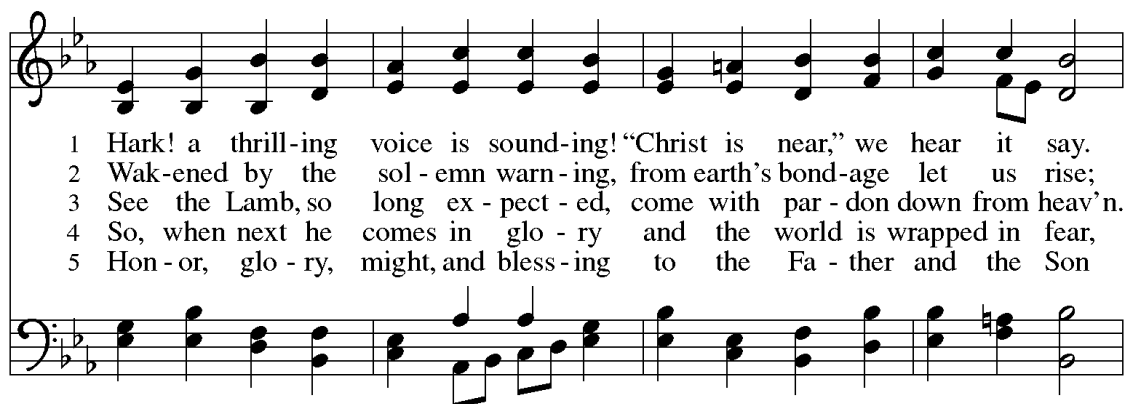
Amen.

BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

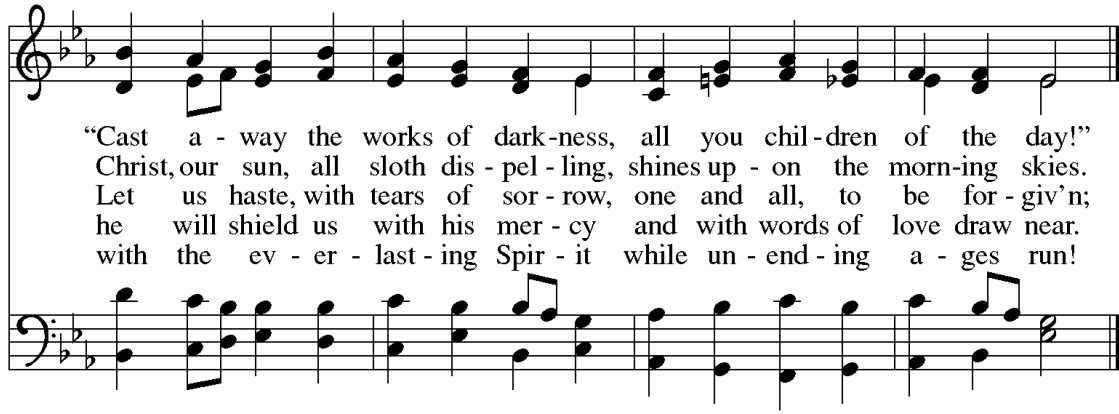
Amen.

SENDING HYMN “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! “Christ is near,” we hear it say.
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son

(Continued on the next page.)



“Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!”
 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
 Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
 he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
 with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.



Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people and all who are in need in our prayers.

Carol Judge	Ann Kuehl	Sue Vogel
Michelle Weltzin-Trainor	Ed Stoltz	Cindy Crain
Ron McFate	Jan Kluever	Craig
Nancy Meyer	Pat Hoffman	Lois
Karen Rathjen	June Dierks	Carolyn
H.O. Nelson	Michael Schafer	John
Norm Harvey	Karen Muetzel	Mary
Sheila Baustian	Peyton Langebartles	Bonnie
Sally Puls	Sherri Westmeier	Dorie
Duane Miller	Meyer Mixdorf	Clif
Tim Winter	Bob Morehead	Kelly
Jensen Spencer	Patty Mixdorf	
	Melissa Alden	



The flowers on the altar this week are given by Dan and Karen O'Flaherty in loving memory of their parents.

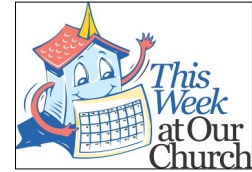
If you are interested in providing altar flowers, there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. You may also sign up by calling the church office, or online at:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EABA62CAAF85-altar>



Cinnamon Roll Sunday

Youth who will be attending the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis will be making and selling cinnamon rolls the weekend of December 11 and 12 to help raise funds for their trip. You can purchase these delicious rolls in person around worship December 11 and 12, or pre-order by signing up online (link found on our website and on Facebook) or on the sheet in the gathering space. Cost is \$1/roll, \$5/6 rolls, and \$10/dozen. Along with baked rolls, we will have the option to purchase unbaked rolls by the dozen. Thank you for supporting our youth!

THIS WEEK AT FAITH



Saturday, November 27 th	5pm	Worship
Sunday, November 28 th	8am	Worship
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship
Tuesday, November 30 th	9am	Ambassador Folding
	1pm	Bible Study
	5:30pm	Food Pantry
	7pm	Jubilation
Wednesday, December 1 st	5pm	Confirmation Meal
	5:30pm	Confirmation Conversations
	6:15pm	People of Praise
	7pm	High School Youth
	7:15pm	Resounding Joy!
Thursday, December 2 nd	6:30pm	Team Night
Friday, December 3 rd	9:30am	Food Pantry
	5:30pm	Eldridge Hometown Holiday
Saturday, November 27 th	5pm	Worship
Sunday, November 28 st	8am	Worship
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN—Time for snow removal volunteers. There is a sign up sheet in the gathering area and online if you could help clear sidewalks after a snowfall. Additional information can be found on the sign up sheet or on our web page. The sign up link is <https://>