

PREPARE
THE WAY OF
THE LORD

LUKE 3:4



The Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 5, 2021 5:00pm
Sunday, December 6, 2021 8:00 and 10:30 am

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

vv. 1 & 4

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

(Continued on the next page.)

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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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.

SECOND SUNDAY - *The Wonder of the Promise*

Candle Lighting

Today we light two candles. The **first candle** reminds us to recapture the wonder of the season. In a world that seldom slows, Advent is an opportunity to still our hearts and open our eyes to the wonder and majesty of our Savior. As we light the **second candle**, we call to mind God's promise to restore, redeem and reconcile a broken world, spoken through the prophets and fulfilled through Christ.

Responsive Litany

During Advent we recall God's promises spoken through the prophets.

The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.

To the hurting, God Promises unshakable hope.

The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.

To the forsaken, God promises unconditional love.

The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.

To the broken, God promises unmerited grace.

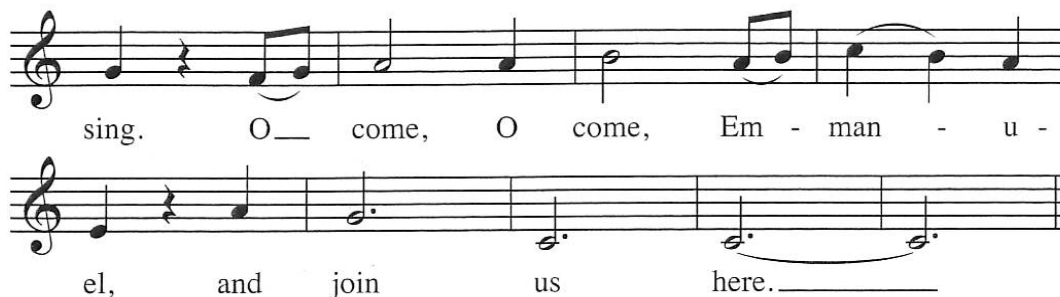
The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.

To the heavy hearted, God promises unbridled joy.

The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.

There is won - der in the hope of the birth of a
 King, there is won - der in the sound of the an - gels as they

(Continued on the next page.)



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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

ANTHEM (8:00)

“Advent Alleluia”

People of Praise

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
 you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
 born of the house of your servant David.**

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
⁷¹from the hands of all who hate us,

⁷²**to show mercy to our forebears,
 and to remember your holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear,
⁷⁵holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

⁷⁷**to give God’s people knowledge of salvation
 by the forgiveness of their sins.**

⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

⁷⁹to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from Philippians.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as 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.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” vv. 1, 2 & 4

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble staff at the top and a bass staff at the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. Below the staves, there are five lines of lyrics, each corresponding to a line of the hymn. The lyrics are: 1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es; 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the; 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge; 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us; 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

(Continued on the next page.)

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
rise to our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of 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.
on us 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. composite
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

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.

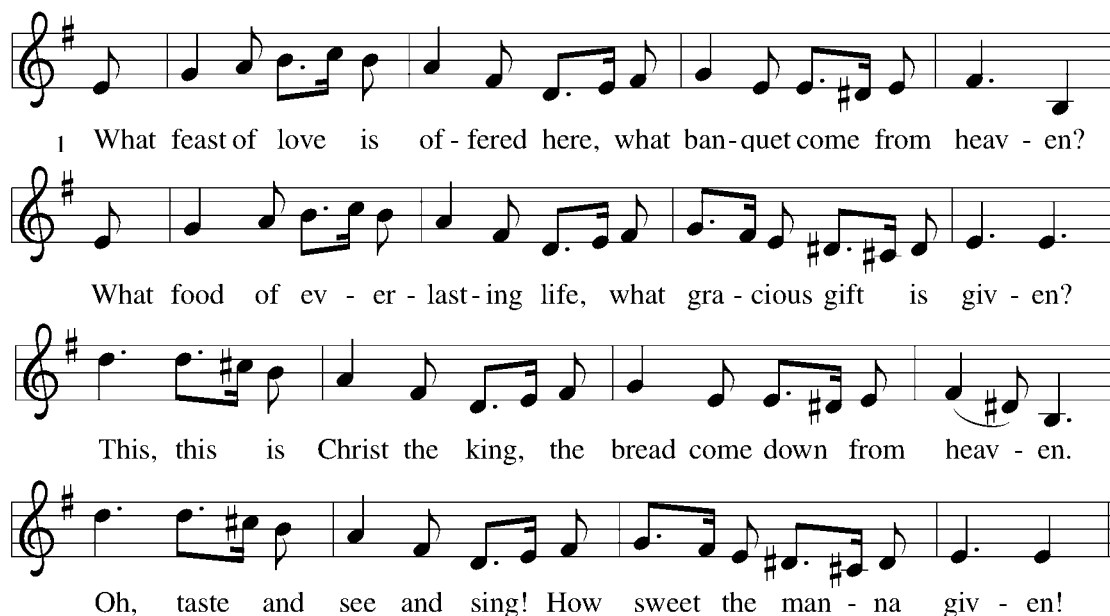
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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](https://www.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!

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.

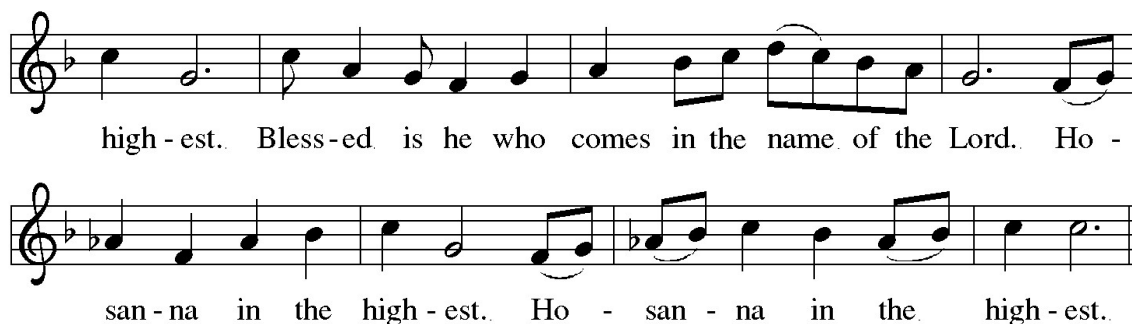
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

(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.

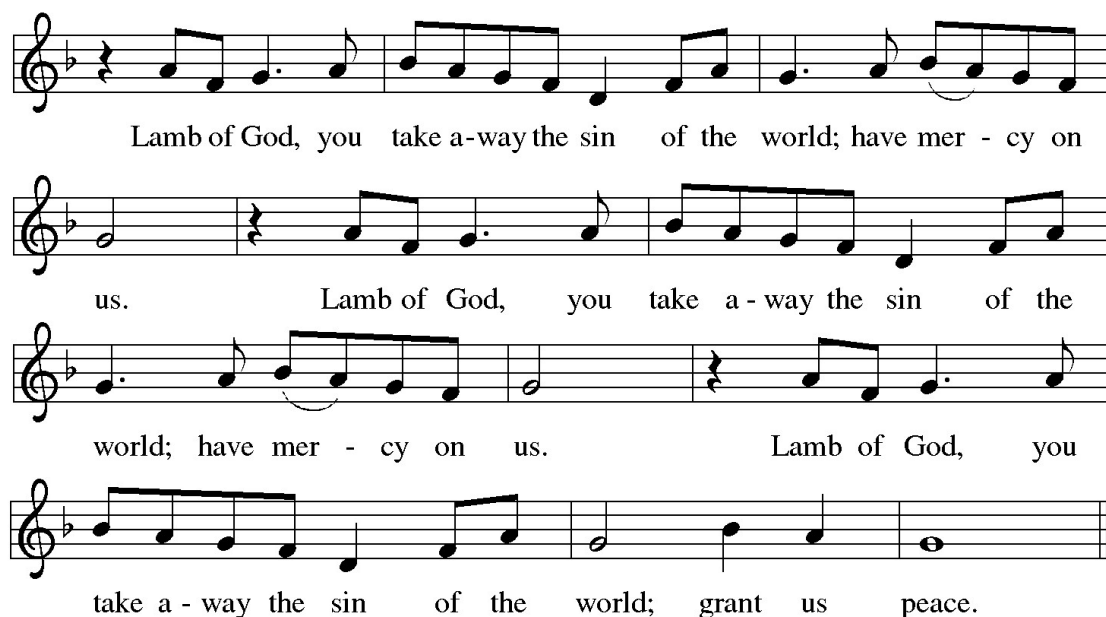
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, 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.

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.

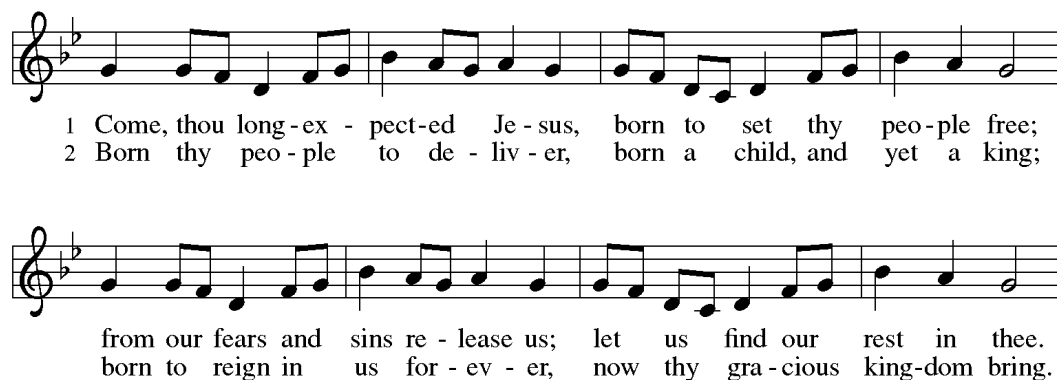
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;
from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

(Continued on the next page)



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
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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.

Michelle Weltzin-
Trainor
Ron McFate
Nancy Meyer
Karen Rathjen
H.O. Nelson
Norm Harvey
Sheila Baustian
Sally Puls
Duane Miller
Tim Winter
Jensen Spencer

Ann Kuehl
Eugene Kreiter
Ed Stoltz
Jan Kluever
Pat Hoffman
June Dierks
Michael Schafer
Karen Muetzel
Peyton Langebartles
Sherri Westmeier
Meyer Mixdorf
Bob Morehead

Patty Mixdorf
Melissa Alden
Sue Vogel
Craig
Lois
Carolyn
John
Mary
Bonnie
Dorie
Clif
Kelly



The flowers on the altar this week are given by
Darin & Beth Ann Anderson and sons in loving memory of
Beth Ann's mother, Betty Leeman.

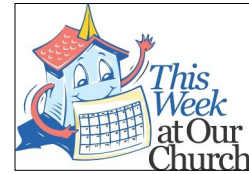
*If you are interested in providing altar flowers, there is a
sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. You may
also sign up by calling the church office, or online at:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/>*



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, December 4 th	5pm	Worship
Sunday, December 5 th	8am	Worship
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship
Monday, December 6 th	5:30pm	Lion's Club (FH)
Tuesday, December 7 th	1pm	Bible Study
	5:30pm	Food Pantry
	6:30 pm	(NO VFW—CANCELLED)
	7pm	Jubilation
Wednesday, December 8 th	5pm	Confirmation Meal
	5:30pm	Confirmation Conversations
	6:15pm	People of Praise
	7pm	High School Youth
	7:15pm	Resounding Joy!
Thursday, December 9 th	7pm	Executive Committee
Friday, December 10 th	9:30am	Food Pantry
Saturday, December 11 th	<i>Youth Cinnamon Roll Sale</i>	
	7am	Youth Cinnamon Roll Baking (FH and Kitchen)
	5pm	Worship
Sunday, December 12 th	<i>Youth Cinnamon Roll Sale</i>	
	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://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EABA62CAAF85-snow1>

Thank you for your help!

