



2nd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 5, 2021
Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

WELCOME TO PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

We extend in the name of Christ, a hearty welcome to all who are worshipping with us today. May you find here an experience of true Christian worship and fellowship. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to consider joining Peace.

MISSION STATEMENT

As servants of Jesus Christ, we share God's grace and mercy. We welcome and encourage all to grow with us in God's kingdom through praise, worship, and service.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

One of the following or another confession is prayed.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all

your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW #264



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.



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.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

GREETING

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

C. And also with you.



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
 3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -
 au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes
 name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,
 sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to
 liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we
 ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.
 ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.
 God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Let us pray. 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.

C. Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi.

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

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.

P. Word of God. Word of life.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

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.**

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

⁷⁹ **to 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.

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

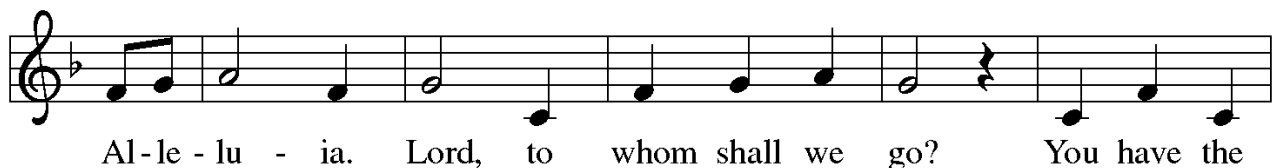
³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus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

P. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 188



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 3:1-6

P. The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 3rd Chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming 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.’”

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION: FOR THOSE AT HOME

Luke's gospel is a story about the good news of Jesus. Luke wants us to know that Jesus is the Lord that the prophet Isaiah was talking about when he said, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." And, John, son of Zechariah, is the one preparing Jesus' way.

John is out there preaching, baptizing, and inviting people to turn their lives around to meet the Lord, who is on his way. The prophet Isaiah paints an amazing picture of how extreme this preparation should be. "Every valley should be filled. Every mountain and hill made low. The crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth." Any barrier for the Lord should be removed. Jesus' way is barrier free.

This image is about making it easy for Jesus to get where you are now. This image is not just about little changes. It is about big things, too. Every valley, that means even the Grand Canyon. Every mountain and hill, that means the Rockies and the Alps and even Mount Everest. Crooked, straight. Rough, smooth. No twisty-turny roads to get lost on. No bumpy stony roads to stumble on. Easy access. And this access is a two-way street. If Jesus' way to us should be made barrier free, then the same goes for our access to Jesus. Nothing should stand in the way of getting to Jesus. John the Baptist's task, according to Luke, is to preach forgiveness for all who turn to Jesus, no matter where they find themselves in life.

Many things in our lives get in the way of hearing God's word of forgiveness in Jesus. Sometimes it is the voice whispering in our ears, words of unworthiness. Perhaps it is the memories of traumatic things which keep us from believing that the way to Jesus' love is easy. Maybe it is teachings we've heard which suggest that God's love is not meant for us because of how we look or who we love. So we think God's forgiveness is not meant for us.

Isaiah's words are about extreme, barrier-free love. That seems too good to be true. God couldn't possibly love me or him or her or them. Or could God, indeed, love any of us at any time, all the time? How many people do we know who find themselves living in a wilderness of their own making, desperately needing to

hear a voice crying out into their wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord!”? God’s love constantly breaks into the world and Luke points to it. Isaiah points to it. Others around us point to it. We, too, can point to “barrier-free Jesus, for ourselves and for others in the world around us.

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

ELW #249



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



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 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

APOSTLES’ CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your Spirit to all living creatures. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send leaders to work on behalf of; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send prophets to speak difficult truths. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

THE SHARING OF PEACE

P. The peace of Christ be with you always.

C. **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of Christ's peace with one another.

+ THE MEAL +

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS *Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Peace Lutheran Church. We gladly accept your offerings via US Postal Service, Tithe.ly, or direct deposit from your bank.*

OFFERING HYMN

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 184



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble



with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

P. Let us pray. God of our waiting and watching,

**C. 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.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P. 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'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
 our Salvation and our Hope,
 we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
 When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
 you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.
 At this end of the ages
 your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
 and to heal all the suffering world.
 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.

Remembering, therefore,

his life, death, and resurrection,

we await his coming again

in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us

and on this bread and wine we share:

strengthen our faith,

increase our hope,

and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church,

both now and forever.

Amen

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

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

LAMB OF GOD

ELW p. 191



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

CONTEMPORARY SONG/HYMNS *When the King Comes* Jared G. Anderson

What Feast of Love

ELW # 487



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
 What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?
 What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
 This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
 This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.

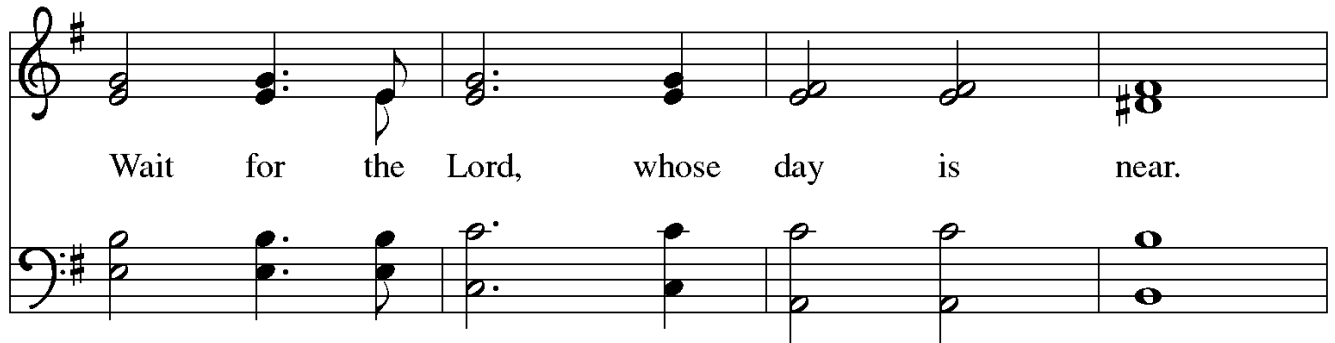


Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
 Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.
 Text © 1993 Delores Dufner OSB. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

Wait for the Lord (repeats)

ELW # 262



Text: Taizé Community
 Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
 Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
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TABLE BLESSING

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

C. Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS *Holy One, Now Let Your Servants Go*

Ho - ly One, now let your ser - vants go in
We our - selves, we know the heal - ing you've pre -
We pro - claim the light to show you to the
Ho - ly One, now let your ser - vants go in

4 Asus4 A G A D
peace. Your word has been ful - filled.
pared, and all the world can see.
world, for glo - ry, Is - ra - el.
4 peace. Your word has been ful - filled.

BLESSING

P. 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.

C. Amen.



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace. Christ is near.

C. Thanks be to God.

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News You Can Use

ABOUT THIS WEEKS TEXT

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.”

COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK

Monday, December 6 —Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

Tuesday, December 7—Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS:

Doris Fischer, Walter Hoyt, Jim (brother of Patti Christell)
Verlene Urekar, Jim Neal, Dale Kruckeberg, Joe O'Brien

If you would like to be added to the prayer list, or know someone who would like to be added to our list, please fill out a Prayer Request Card, send an email to peace.lutheran@comcast.net OR call the Office at (217)546-7646. Other than those in the Military will remain on the prayer list for two weeks unless otherwise notified.

Please note—for privacy reasons, we must have an individual's permission to add their name. If interested in assisting on Saturdays or Sundays, please call the church office at 217.546-7646, or text Pastor Mary at 920-671-4338.

ZOOM MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SUNDAY, DEC 5 | In Person Worship/Livestream,—9:30am
Drive Thru Communion—11:00—11:30am |
| TUESDAY, DEC 7 | Community Service Committee—5:00pm—Zoom |
| WEDNESDAY, DEC 8 | Nominating Committee—5:00pm |
| SUNDAY, DEC 12 | In Person Worship/Livestream—9:30am |

ASSISTING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 5:

Drive thru communion Parking Lot : Shudrowtiz Family

SUNDAY IN-PERSON SERVICE:

Assisting Minister: Lois Moorman

Ushers: Steve & Lois McConomy

Video: Linda Rice

Camera: Janet Kocis



*This weeks Altar Flowers
Provided for the Glory of God.*



December 11

Sandy Barker

Brad Harris

Casey Bell

Blackhawk gifts are due Dec. 12th.
Gifts should be wrapped and tagged
with FIRST and LAST names



Christmas Food Baskets



**Collecting this
week:**

Cereal



Grace Lutheran Food Pantry has been chosen for the month of December, 2021 to receive donations from the purchase of the reusable "My Heart" Bag.

More Info in the NYCU



Luminaries Volunteers needed for Christmas Eve Service

More info in NYCU

HOPE
for the
First
Nations



**Online Silent Auction
Last chance to bid or
make donations.**

Visit:

**www.hopeforthefirstnations.com for
more info**

**Free Will Donations to the
Christmas Poinsettia Fund
now being accepted.**

**Drop off at the
church office,
during "Drive Through
Communion" or Worship**

