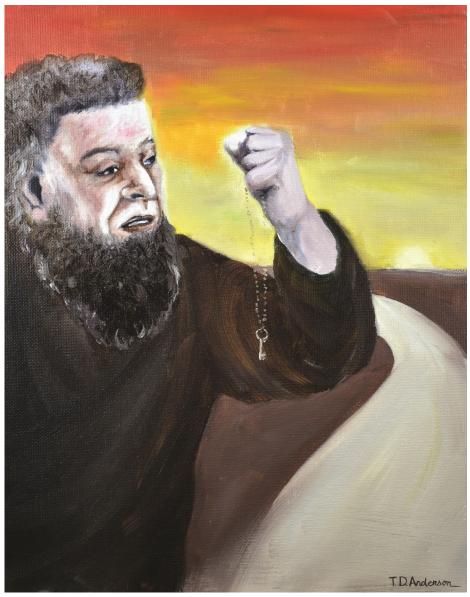
# Third Sunday of Advent In-Person and Online Worship Bulletin December 15, 2024



"A Closer Walk" by T. Denise Anderson | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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# **PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

1701 E. Missouri Ave., Las Cruces, NM • (575) 522-7119 www.peacelutheranlc.com • office@peacelutheranlc.com



www.facebook.com/peacelutheranlc

# **Mission Statement**

We are called to be an inclusive community, sharing God's grace through worship, service, and hospitality.

We of Peace Lutheran Church welcome all people to full participation in the life of the church regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or physical or mental disability.

Children are welcome in any worship service at Peace Lutheran Church.

It is a pleasure to have you worship with us this week and, if you are looking for a church home, we invite you to worship with us again soon. If you are in need of assistance of any kind, please speak with an usher.

P= Presider, A= Assisting Minister, C= Congregation

PRELUDE

Ave Maris Stella

--Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)



WELCOME

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

# **CALL TO WORSHIP**

- L: A voice calls out in the wilderness.
- C: It sings of a home for all. It speaks of justice and peace,
- L: We could choose to ignore it.
- C: We could drown out that song. We could choose not to listen.
- L: Instead, we come into this space.
- C: We let the world grow quiet. We listen.
- L: A voice calls out in the wilderness. Do you hear it?
- C: We hear it. In listening, we worship.
- L: Let us draw near to God.

# WREATH LIGHTING

- A: Joy is seeing people you love after months apart.
- B: Joy is hearing, "Come on over, it has been too long!"
- A: Joy is the stretches and giggles of a newborn child.
- B: Joy is making it home when the journey is long.
- A: Joy is your dog sliding to meet you at the door.
- B: Joy is the energy of a new season.
- A: Joy is feeling found when you thought you were lost.
- B: So today we light the candle of joy, because the welcome God has for us is nothing short of joyful.
- A: Rest in that good news. Let it wash over you.
- B: Family of faith, we are close to home. Amen.

# ADVENT HYMN Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah ELW 240 - verse 3

Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
 Let the light banish darkness.
 Lift your heads and lift high the gateway,
 For the King of glory.

#### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS P: It takes courage to tell the

It takes courage to tell the truth. John the Baptist knew it. His job as a prophet certainly could not have been easy.

And you and I know it. Our job as people of faith—to create a home for all—has never been easy.

In our prayer of confession, may we channel some of John the Baptist's courage to tell the truth about ourselves and our world. We do not do this to shame ourselves or guilt ourselves for being imperfect. We speak the truth out loud because we know that we cannot grow and change without first being honest.

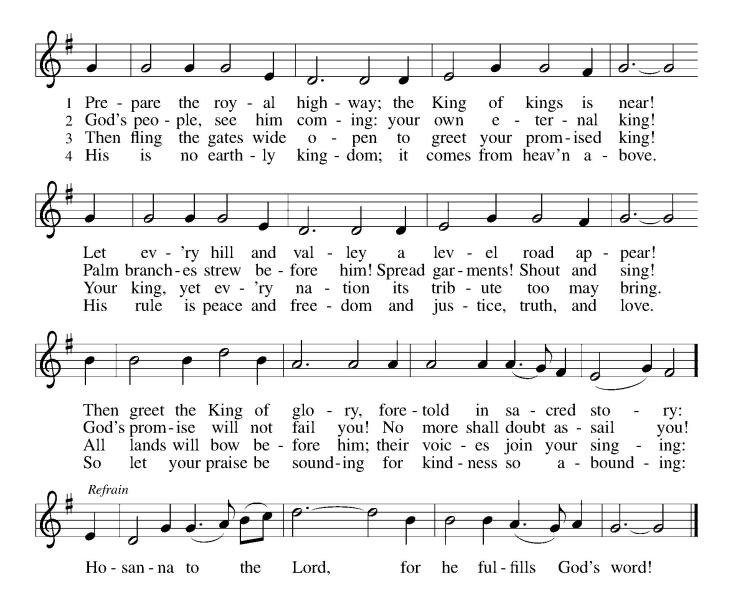
So let us be brave. Let us be bold. Let us be truth-tellers as we confess together now to a God who couldn't love us any more than God already does. Let us pray. . .

# A time of silence for self-reflection.

- P: Expansive God,
- C: We know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door. Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love. Remind us that your home is a home for all, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope we pray, amen.
- P: Family of faith, God sent prophets like John the Baptist to us because this work is not easy. Helping create a world where all might have a home, and all might be loved, and all might know peace, is an audacious goal. Fortunately for us, when we mess up—when we lose our way or forget our call—we are met with grace. God could not love us any more or any less than God already does.

So rest in this good news:

C: We are at home with God -- forgiven, claimed, and loved. The door is always open for us. Thanks be to God. Amen. \*GATHERING HYMN



#### \*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.

#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

- A: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.



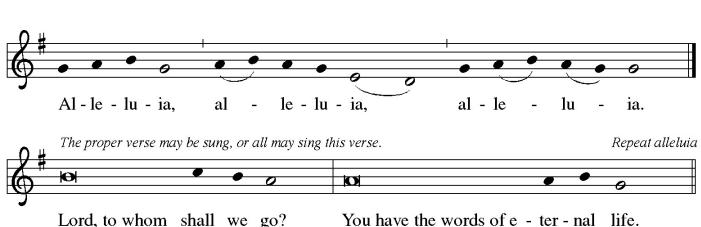
# READING

# Zephaniah 3: 14-20

- <sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love: he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival.
- I will remove disaster from you,
- so that you will not bear reproach for it.<sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors
- at that time. And I will save the lame
- and gather the outcast,
- and I will change their shame into praise
- <sup>\_</sup>and renown in all the earth.
- <sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;
- for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes

- before your eyes, says the LORD.
- L: The Word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.



# \*GOSPEL

# Luke 3: 1-18

- P: The Gospel according to Luke, the third chapter
- C: Glory to you, O Lord.

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** 

<sup>1</sup> In 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, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

**ELW 168** 

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every 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;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.<sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wades."

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unguenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Silence for Reflection*HYMN OF THE DAYAll Are WelcomeELW 641(see page 7)*NICENE CREEDWe believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.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 againELW 641(see page 7)We believe in one God, utation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose againWe look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.	SERMON		Pastor H	lannah DiPasquale
<ul> <li>*NICENE CREED</li> <li>We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again</li> <li>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.</li> <li>We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*</li> <li>who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.</li> <li>We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.</li> <li>We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.</li> </ul>		All Are Welcome	ELW 641	(see page 7)
<ul> <li>the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again</li> </ul>				()
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**\*HYMN OF THE DAY** 

All Are Welcome

**ELW 641** 



#### **\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

- A: Lord in your mercy
- C: Receive our prayer.

Saints of Peace:

Joseph Larimer, Kari Lindsey, Susan Ford, Thomas Albert Johnson, Hilda Raudsepp, Bernice Jackson

- P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.
- C: Amen.

# **\*THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

- P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C: And also with you.

In-Building: Please share signs of peace in whatever way you are comfortable and is respectful of your neighbor's comfort level.

Online: You may share signs of peace in the chat or on video in sign language or waving.



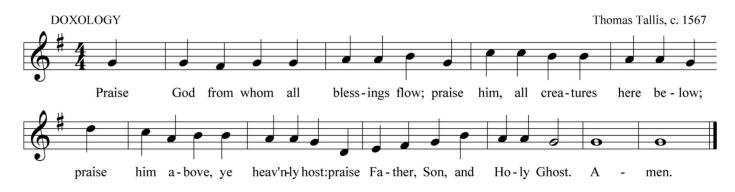
# OFFERING

Gifts for the work and ministry of Peace Lutheran Church can be placed in the offering plates or mailed to the Church Office or sent through on-line giving on our website.

#### OFFERTORY ANTHEM Carol of the Advent 'People Look East' David Hurd Choir & Campanas de Pas

# **\*OFFERTORY**

Doxology



# **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

- A: God who welcomes us home,
- C: we have two coats and we are giving one away.
  - That's what this offering is.

It's our second coat.

It's our hearts on our sleeves.

It's our audacious hope that there can indeed be a better world than this one. So take these gifts and use them to move us closer to that promised day. Gratefully we pray, amen.

8

# **\*THE 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 God thanks and praise!

# \*PREFACE

P: ...And so, we thank you with the faithful of every time and place, as we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

# \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

## ELW 190



#### **\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

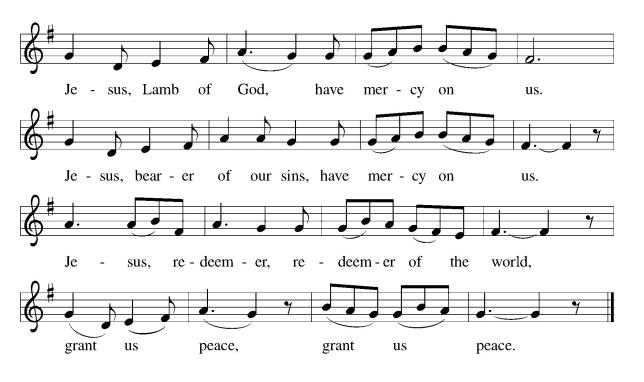
C: Our Father in Heaven hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen. Padre nuestro que estás enel Cielo, santificado sea tu nombre, venga a nosotros tu Reino, hágase tu voluntad en la Tierra como en el Cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona nuestras ofensas, como también perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación, y líbranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el Reino, tuyo el Poder, y tuya la Gloria, ahora y siempre. Amén.

# INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are invited to the Lord's table for communion, regardless of age or church membership. Come forward up the center aisle, taking an empty cup from the tray at the front. Follow the direction of the ushers and kneel or stand at the rail. The Bread Minister will hand you a piece of bread (gluten-free wafers are available, just ask the bread minister). There are two Wine Ministers. The first pouring chalice offers wine and the second chalice is grape juice.

*If you choose not to receive communion, you may come forward for a blessing from the Bread Minister.* Crossing your arms over your chest will indicate that you would prefer a blessing.

If you have difficulty coming to the front, please notify an usher and communion will gladly be brought to you.



**COMMUNION MUSIC** 

Magnificat Fugues

--Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

# **\*BLESSING FROM THE TABLE**

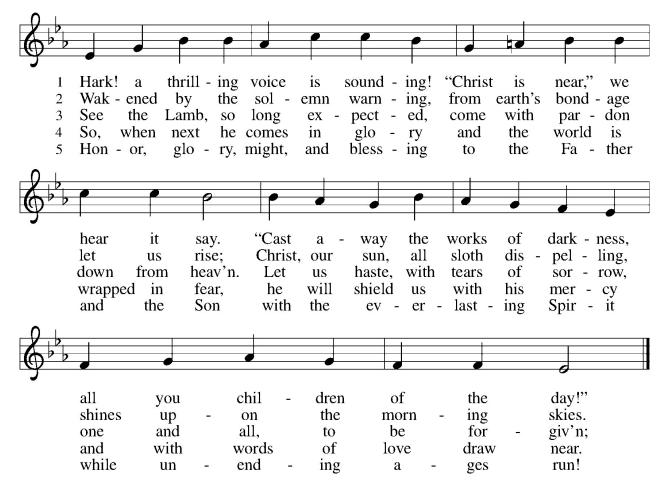
## **\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

- A: Generous God,
- C: we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.



# **\*THE BENEDICTION**

- P: As you leave *this* service, *your* service begins: Comfort the homesick. Open your doors to others. Seek sanctuary. Be brave enough to go home by another way. And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed—so come back soon. In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son + go in peace.
- C: Amen



# \*DISMISSAL

- A: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel
- C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

People, Look East!

--Kristina Langlois (b.1959)

Peace values music highly, so some may choose to remain in the sanctuary for the postlude. Others may choose to leave quietly at that time. All are welcome to gather in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and fellowship.

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# **Ministers and Staff**

The Congregation Members of Peace Lutheran Church Rev. Hannah DiPasquale, Pastor Sandy Johnson, Office Administrator (office@peacelutheranlc.com) Jieun Newland, Music Minister Tommy Grimes, Custodian

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS - December 15**

If you have Prayer Requests to be included in the Prayers of the Day, please write them before the service on the Prayer Request sheet found on the stand in the narthex.

**Flowers in the sanctuary** were graciously donated by Joel & Cindy Peterson in memory of his mother, Lois Peterson.

**Mesilla Valley Chorale presents "Someday at Christmas" at 3:00 p.m. today** at the Rio Grande Theatre. \$10 Admission. See the poster in the Narthex.

You are invited to the Christmas Posadas of Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey: People come to reenact the journey of Mary and Joseph and later celebrate with Mariachis, the traditional Mexican Christmas meal, the Piñata for the kids, and more. TODAY at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, El Paso; the Christmas Service is at 5:00 p.m. and the celebration is at 6:30 p.m. Reserve your ticket (\$10 per person or \$20 per family): text 915-422-5434 or 915-305-1185. See the poster in the narthex for details.

**Join us this Wednesday for the last Advent** soup supper at 6:15 p.m., followed by a service at 7 p.m. We will be singing Holden Evening Prayer and hearing from a guest speaker about our Advent theme, "Close to Home."

SIGN UP to help with our Advent Soup Supper on Wednesday, Dec. 18. Set-up and Clean-up help are needed, as well as your best soup or bread to share. We've invited the neighborhood to join us, so an extra soup or bread will be appreciated.

**Close to Home, An Advent Journey – at-home resources available.** Devotional booklets and Advent calendars are available for you to take home for your personal devotional use. These booklets are full of readings, poems, prayer prompts, and visual art to help you experience God this Advent season. The Advent calendars are designed to be kept on your fridge, utilizing your own magnet(s) to journey through the days and their invitations to a daily activity.

**Poinsettias for Christmas**. We have ordered 12 red and 6 white poinsettias for our Christmas service. There is a signup sheet in the narthex if you wish to purchase one of these in honor or in memory of loved ones. The cost is \$15; please mark your check 'poinsettia. You can takes yours home after Christmas.

**Longest Night Service - December 21st at 5:00 PM**. In the gentle embrace of this quiet, contemplative assembly, we extend a hand of solace and support to those journeying through the valleys of loss, grief, sorrow, or any pain that weighs upon the heart this holiday season. This sacred service, a refuge of compassion and understanding, welcomes all souls seeking comfort and peace in the stillness of the longest night. Come as you are.

**CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICES** (and a sing-along!) On December 24, at 5:00 PM we will have a Christmas Eve Candlelight service, including a special children's message and your favorite carols. Come early at 4:40 to enjoy a Christmas carol sing-along. Then on December 25, Christmas Day, we will gather in the fellowship hall at 10:00 AM for Pancakes & Prayer. Come hungry and join us for a delicious breakfast, followed by a short, festive time of morning prayer. The sign-up sheet for food and helpers is on the table in the Narthex; plan to join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!

**After-school Program Request:** The after school program team is requesting a few items of gently used, comfortable furniture, such as armchairs, ottomans, and a small couch or loveseat. Comfortable seating will make the program space more welcoming to our participants. If you or someone you know is planning to replace any gently used furniture in the near future, please consider donating it to the after school program!

Contact: Susanna Odegaard, <u>anasplacelc@gmail.com</u> There is also a wish list available of other requested items

# MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

100 households came to the November mobile food pantry distribution! We expect similar numbers this Thursday, December 19. It takes many hands to bag and box up and load into carts and cars. New volunteers are always welcome to share in the joy of serving others. We begin at 7 a.m.

The Science of Gift Giving March Research says that people prefer receiving gifts that they have asked for specifically, NOT the thoughtful thing you think they might want. Clothing, household items, and cosmetics tend to be the most unwanted gifts, while cash is always appreciated. And the best, most surprising and grateful gift of all? A simple compliment. :)

#### Worship Assistants - TODAY

Assisting Minister. Lector. Greeter.		Lynette Schurdevin Geri Ayers
Communion Serve	er:	Jeanne Brown
Ushers:	Penny	& Marv Smith
		Skari, Judy Tofte
Technology (3):	Sandy	Johnson, Kathie Rich,
	Bob Tr	eulich
Altar Care:	Susan	Yarne
Bulletins:	Barb P	atton, Deb Sarabia

#### Worship Assistants - December 22

Assisting Minister: Lector: Greeters: Communion Server: Ushers:

Monica Hillmer Ron Odegaard

Ron Odegaard

Technology (3):

Altar Care:

Bulletins:

Mary Luckie, Karen Harvey, Kathie Rich Susan Yarne Barb Patton, Deb Sarabia

# **SCHEDULE - December 15-22**

Sun., Dec. 15	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	2 1		
Tues., Dec. 17	10:30 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	5		
Wed., Dec. 18	5:00 p.m.	Soup Supper		
Thurs., Dec. 19		Mobile Food Pantry Alzheimer's Support Group Bells		
Sat., Dec. 21	5:00 p.m.	The Longest Night Service		
Sun., Dec. 22	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	2 1		
+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++				
OA - Overeaters Anon: 9:30 a.m Sa				
AA - Downtown Group: 5:30 p.m Su, M, Tu, Th, F, Sa 7:00 p.m W 8:00 p.m Sa				
AA - Primary Purpose: 7:00 p.m F				