

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
In-Person and Online Worship Bulletin  
December 22, 2024**



"Dances for Joy" | Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)



**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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# Welcome to Peace Lutheran Church

## 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 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**

*Creator alme siderum*

*--Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)*

⊕ ----- GATHERING ----- ⊕

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

- L: We are seeking--  
C: **deeper faith,  
a place to belong,  
the feeling that God is here in this room.**
- L: We are seeking--  
C: **joy that overflows,  
the movement of the Spirit,  
a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.**
- L: We are seeking--  
C: **the freedom to be,  
the courage to love,  
the conviction to act in the face of injustice.**
- L: We are seeking, but here in this space,  
C: **We are found.**
- L: Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.  
C: **God is here. We are found. Amen.**

## WREATH LIGHTING

- ...
- B: Today we light the candle of love to remind us of this truth.  
A: May it burn brightly in this space and even brighter in our hearts.  
B: Amen.

## ADVENT HYMN

### *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

ELW 240 - verse 4

- 4 Light four candles to watch for Messiah:  
Let the light banish darkness.  
He is coming, tell the glad tidings,  
Let your lights be shining!

## \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P: Mary's world turned upside down with the visit of an angel.  
This is a moment we can relate to, as our world has seemed to turn upside down more than once.

When those moments come, we hope to respond with grace; but more often than not, fear can get the best of us. So today we turn to God in prayer, asking for God's guidance and grace in the places and moments we need it most. Let us pray.

*A time of silence for self-reflection.*

- P: God of safe spaces,  
C: **Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need.  
Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us.  
How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them?  
Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth.  
Gratefully we pray, amen.**

- P: Family of faith, even if we miss the person standing on our doorstep, even if we fail to care for ourselves the way God would care for us, even if we forget and ignore, turn away and shut down, God still loves us. There is nothing we can do to lose God's love.

Rest in this promise:  
If we get lost, we will be found.  
If we mess up, we are forgiven.  
If we withhold love, God is lavish in loving us.

- C: **We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.**



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
 refresh the hearts that long for you;  
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

\*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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
 C: **Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

**Luke 1: 39-45 [part 1]**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

**FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**ELW 168**

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

*The proper verse may be sung, or all may sing this verse. Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go?      You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

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

**\*GOSPEL**

**Luke 1: 46-55 [part 2]**

**read responsively**

And Mary said,  
 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**  
**From this day all generations will call me blessed:**  
<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
 and holy is your name.  
<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on those who fear you,**  
**from generation to generation.**  
<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength with your arm  
 and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty from their thrones**  
**and lifting up the lowly.**  
<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry with good things  
 and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,**  
**to remember the promise of mercy,**  
<sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forebears,  
 to Abraham and his children forever.

P:    The Gospel of the Lord.  
 C:    **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Silence for Reflection

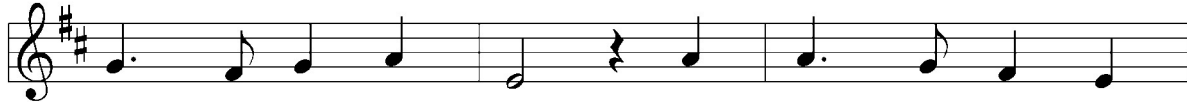
\*HYMN OF THE DAY

A Story for All People

W & P, p. 2



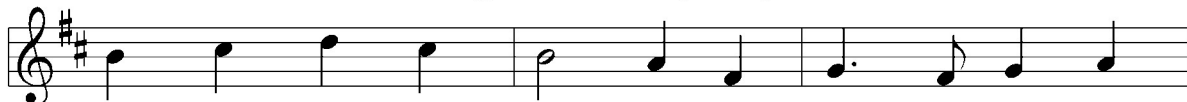
1 As peo - ple wait in dark - ness, in  
 2 We come in - to your pres - ence, in  
 3 A time of prep - a - ra - tion: the  
 4 You call us to re - pen - tance, to  
 5 Re - newed by this en - coun - ter, we'll



fear of end - less night, send forth your word of  
 hope and joy re - stored. With ea - ger hearts we  
 guest is draw - ing near, as moun - tain plac - es  
 turn and start a - gain. You send your Ho - ly  
 go out and pro - claim. We'll tell of your sal -



com - fort, a mes - sage of great light. The  
 lis - ten, and gath - er 'round your word. We  
 crum - ble and straight - ened paths ap - pear. Pre -  
 Spir - it to drown the pow'r of sin. We  
 va - tion, and mag - ni - fy your name. The



world stands proud be - fore you, con - flict - ed, hun - gry,  
 watch and wait your com - ing, and pray for great - er  
 pare a hum - ble wel - come in ev - 'ry heart and  
 won - der in your mer - cy, your sing - ing fes - tal  
 ser - vant words of Mar - y will swell the faith - ful



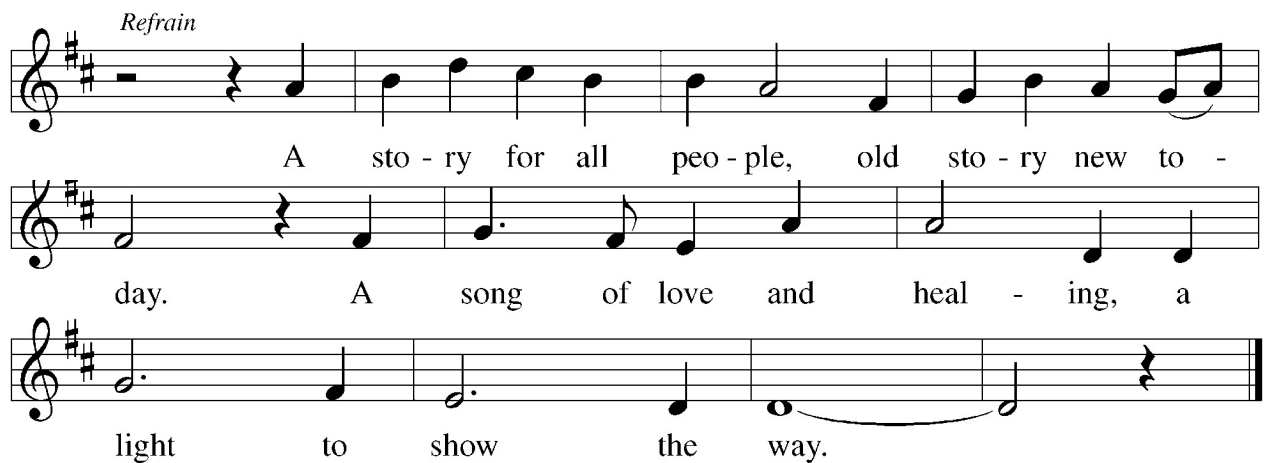
poor. Come, scat - ter pride and fool - ish - ness, and  
 trust, to know that while we wait for you, Em -  
 home, and cel - e - brate the prom - ise of our  
 voice; and in your meal of bread and wine we  
 soul, and you will bring your chil - dren home that



mend all souls with Sav - ior love once more.  
 man - u - el, you watch and wait with us.  
 God who is, and was, and is to come.  
 join the in - vi - ta - tion to re - joice!  
 day when all cre - a - tion will be whole.

REFRAIN ON NEXT PAGE -->

*Refrain*



A sto - ry for all peo - ple, old sto - ry new to -  
 day. A song of love and heal - ing, a  
 light to show the way.

### \*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 PEOPLE

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

Saints of Peace:

**David Bergfeldt, Georgia Clayshulte, Oscar Trost, William Brettner, Marvin Brown, Albert Miller**

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**

**\*OFFERTORY**

*Doxology*

**Thomas Tallis, c. 1567**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
 praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. A - men.

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A: Good and gracious God,  
 C: **We give these gifts for the seekers.**  
**We give these gifts for those who need sanctuary.**  
**We give these gifts for those who build sanctuaries.**  
**We give these gifts for those who have lost sanctuary,**  
**and for those who find sanctuary all over the place.**  
**Use these gifts to bring us closer to home.**  
**With joy and hope in our hearts we pray, amen.**

**\*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: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of the universe!  
 You draw your people to you  
 with the promise of salvation.  
 In your goodness,  
 every promise you make is fulfilled.  
 You delivered your people from bondage and exile,  
 bringing them home and renewing their song.  
 When your creation was captive to sin,  
 you sent Christ to restore the whole world.  
 In your love and by your Spirit,  
 you have invited us in and welcomed us home.  
 And so, we thank you with the faithful of every time and place,  
 as we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



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



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*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 en el 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.

## \*LAMB OF GOD

ELW 199



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC *Meditation on 'Conditor alme siderum'* --Rebecca Groom Tevelde  
(b. 1956)

## \*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.**

⊕ -----SENDING----- ⊕

**\*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

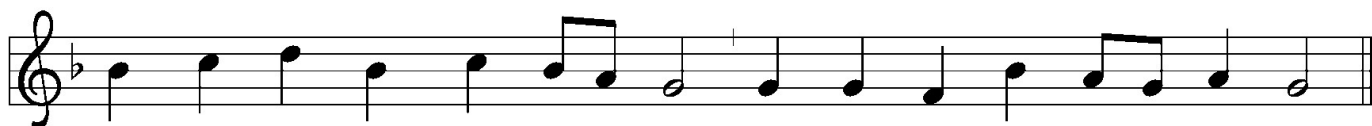
**\*SENDING HYMN**

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

**ELW 263**



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.  
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,  
 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!  
 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,  
 hallows night with newborn light.  
 Night cannot this light subdue;  
 let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
 virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
 To the holy Trinity  
 praise we sing eternally!

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**

***Veni, Emmanuel***

**--Robert J. Powell (b.1932)**

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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**Worship Assistants - TODAY**

<i>Assisting Minister:</i>	Monica Hillmer
<i>Lector:</i>	Ron Odegaard
<i>Greeter:</i>	William Makepeace
<i>Communion Server:</i>	Ron Odegaard
<i>Ushers:</i>	Penny & Marv Smith Karen & Gene Quandt
<i>Technology (3):</i>	Karen Harvey, Kathie Rich, Mary Luckie
<i>Altar Care:</i>	Susan Yarne
<i>Bulletins:</i>	Barb Patton, Deb Sarabia

**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 22**

**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 Jane Propsom in honor of her husband and daughters.

**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 take yours home after Christmas.

**CHRISTMAS EVESERVICE** (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.

**CHRISTMAS MORNING:** 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!

**Following worship on Christmas Eve there will be hot chocolate and light goodies** in the Fellowship Hall for those who don't need to rush off to other activities. Feel free to bring a few cookies or treats to share.



**Carol Sing next Sunday, December 29th.** Join us on the first Sunday of Christmas for more carols! In lieu of a sermon, we will be taking requests from the "Christmas" section of our hymnal and singing Christmas carols together, after hearing the Christmas story anew. We will have communion as usual. Join us, and bring your hymn request!

**Vegan/Vegetarian Cook Off!** The Green Team is sponsoring a Vegan/Vegetarian Cook Off! on Sunday, January 12, during Fellowship Hour. Bring a dish to share along with the recipe that can be photographed by people who love your dish! Plan to stand behind your dish and spoon out small portions to each taker. The winner will receive a medal and have their recipe published in our February newsletter. Join the fun and eat healthy and earth-wise! For more information, contact Amanda or anyone on the Green Team.

**Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains is receiving a high number of refugee families and individuals within the next several weeks and is in need of support from volunteers.**

There are many opportunities to volunteer, whether it be an in person role like grocery shopping with a new arrival, or a behind the scenes role like cooking a hot meal for a newcomer. If you are interested in volunteering in anyway, or have questions about volunteer opportunities, please contact Linda Lardner at [linda.lardner@lfsrm.org](mailto:linda.lardner@lfsrm.org) or 575-323-1818.

**Our online worship now** on our YouTube channel (previously we used Zoom) on Sundays at 9am. Anyone can access the livestream, and chat will be enabled so that you can talk to us and others joining worship. The live video will appear when we go live on Sunday. The worship videos will remain on our YouTube channel for later viewing. Search "Peace Lutheran Church Las Cruces, NM" on YouTube or visit: <https://www.youtube.com/@peacelutheranchurch1668>

 **Green Team Tip**  **Is your wrapping paper recyclable?** We of course urge you to reuse your wrapping paper as much as possible, but sometimes it just can't be saved for the next year. If the wrapping paper has glitter, a silver or gold foil on it, or is coated in plastic, throw it away and don't buy anymore new. A simple test can determine if it's made of paper and can be recycled: Crumple it into a ball. Does it stay in a ball? Then tear off all the tape and throw it in your recycle bin!

**Worship Assistants - December 24**  
**Christmas Eve**

*Assisting Minister:* Diana Diemer  
*Lectors:* Geri Ayers

*Greeters:* Sandy Johnson  
 Ron & Lyn Bussian  
*Communion Server:* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Ushers:* \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

*Technology (3):* Lisa Bates, Bob Treulich,  
 Betty Lindsey  
*Altar Care:* Susan Yarne  
*Bulletins:* Barb Patton, Deb Sarabia

**Worship Assistants - December 29**

*Assisting Minister:* Diana Diemer  
*Lector:* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Greeters:* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Communion Server:* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Ushers:* \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

*Technology (2):* Sandy Johnson, Mary Luckie  
*Altar Care:* Susan Yarne  
*Bulletins:* Barb Patton, Deb Sarabia

**SCHEDULE - December 22-29**

Sun., Dec. 22      9:00 a.m.      Sunday Worship      *Fourth Sunday in Advent*  
                          10:00 a.m.      Coffee Hour

Tues., Dec. 24      5:00 p.m.      Christmas Eve Worship

Wed., Dec. 25      10:00 a.m.      Christmas Day Prayers & Pancakes

Wed.,Thurs.,Fri. Dec. 25-27                      OFFICE CLOSED

Sun., Dec. 29      9:00 a.m.      Sunday Worship  
                          10:00 a.m.      Coffee Hour

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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