

*Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.'*

*-Revelation 11:15*

Though Christmas is almost a month away, you would think it was already here based on all of the Christmas trees and other decorations all over our malls, airports, and even our own homes. Though the twelve days of the season of Christmas don't begin until December 25, Christmas decorations start to make an appearance before Thanksgiving, and it's not unheard of for Christmas goodies to pop up in stores right after Halloween. In some ways this almost fanatical anticipation of Christmas fits well into the season of Advent, the season in which we wait and prepare for the birth of the Christ-child. We eagerly await the day we can finally celebrate Christmas and prepare for that day by decorating our homes, planning for meals, and buying gifts for others.

Yet in the midst of our excitement, it is helpful to remember that Advent is an important season in its own right. It gives us an opportunity to be contemplative, to think upon a time where the light of the world had yet to come to earth in human form—to think upon our lives and how different our lives would be had we not been transformed by the salvation Christ has achieved for us. But Advent is not only a time to anticipate Christmas and the celebration of Christ's birth, but to remember that Christ will one day come again and establish God's kingdom here on earth.

This Advent, as we await the celebration of the birth of Christ and anticipate the coming of Christ's kingdom, let us think upon the ways we can work to make this world even a bit more like the kingdom that we anticipate—where there will be no suffering or sadness or injustice. Let us think upon the ways that we can spread the love of Christ within our church, within our community, and throughout the world. And let us not only contemplate these things, but put them into action!

Peace,

Megan

### **Coming Up:**

Sunday, Dec. 2—Make your own Advent Wreath! - 9:00am

Thurs., Dec. 6—Dinner Out at Mangia—6:00pm

Sunday, Dec. 16—we will be doing some decorating after the service.

\*Also, on 16th—we will be doing a Forum on the Fourth!!

Tues., Dec. 18—Food Bank Distribution

Sunday, Dec. 23—we will finish decorating the church.

Monday, Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Service—4:00pm

### ***Sunday School News***

There will be Sunday School on Dec. 2 and 16.

The children will be doing an Advent Presentation during the service on the 23rd.

**December 2**

**Sunday School**

Reader.....Evans Goodling  
Chalice.....Pat Mast/Jackie Laverty  
Ushers.....Terry McEwen/D.D. Krawlzik  
Refreshments.....Cook/McEwen  
Healing.....Barbara Goodling  
Counters.....D.D. Krawlzik/Terry McEwen  
Altar.....Jackie Laverty/Janet McColgan

**December 9**

Reader.....Amy Smith  
Intercessor.....Terry McEwen  
Chalice.....Stan & Sally Stalnaker  
Ushers.....Evans & Barbara Goodling  
Refreshments.....Price/Cunningham  
Healing.....Barbara Goodling  
Counters.....Goodling  
Altar.....Jill Weise/Barbara Goodling

**December 16**

**Sunday School**

Reader.....Barbara Goodling  
Intercessor.....Arlene Hathaway  
Chalice.....Evans & Barbara Goodling  
Ushers.....Jim & Arlene Hathaway  
Refreshments.....Stalnaker  
Counters.....Jen Cunningham/Sally Stalnaker  
Healing.....Barbara Goodling  
Altar.....D.D. Krawlzik/Pat Mast

**December 23**

Reader.....Pat Mast  
Intercessor.....Jackie Laverty  
Chalice.....D.D. Krawlzik/Pat Mast  
Ushers.....Sally & Stan Stalnaker  
Refreshments.....Stillman/Moore  
Counters.....Bob & Peg Cook  
Healing.....Barbara Goodling  
Altar.....Jackie Laverty/Janet McColgan

**DECEMBER 2018**

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*Just a reminder for anyone who  
took a resident's name from Zerbe.  
Bring your gift to church by Dec. 16.*

**December Birthdays**

- 1 Jessica Beebe
- 16 Dennis Reid
- 19 Doris Gring
- 30 D.D. Krawlzik