



Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting is this Sunday, December 4, immediately following worship. If you are a voting member of the congregation please make plans to attend as we will be electing new council members and approving our 2023 church budget.

Advent Vespers

Join us on Wednesday evening during Advent as we pray and sing in preparation for the coming of Christ. Holden Evening Prayer will be held in person and on Facebook Live on November 30, December 7 and 14 at 7:00 pm.

Jesse Tree

The Jesse Tree is up! We are sponsoring two local students who are in need this Christmas. Please take a tag and purchase the item(s) listed. Gifts will be gathered at the church and distributed to the students in time for Christmas.

The Gathering

Our ladies' Bible study, The Gathering, will have their final meeting of 2022 on December 16th at 11:00 am at the home of Barbara Little. There will be lunch and a Christmas ornament exchange, so please bring an ornament and join the fun! For more information, see Barbara or Debbie Lundell.

Christmas Craft Fair

Our Children's Christmas Craft Fair will be on Saturday, December 17, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Invite your friends, neighbors, and family to come for a time of craft building, face painting, snacks, and pictures with Santa.

Lutheranch Open House

Lutheranch in Tallapoosa is hosting its Second Annual Christmas Open House on December 4 from 2:00-5:00 at the barn. Get your picture taken with Santa and your favorite horse, do a Christmas craft, enjoy appetizers, take a pony ride, kiss the donkey under the mistletoe, try your luck with the barn scavenger hunt, and more! The event is free, but please RSVP at lutheranch.org

Online Giving

Did you know that you can give your offering online? We have a secure online giving portal on our website at www.storyofgod.org/online-giving. There is also a QR code in the bulletin that will allow you to access the portal with your smartphone.

Christmas Services

No Christmas is complete without taking time to worship! Christmas Eve Divine Service, complete with Christmas hymns and candlelight, will be held on December 24 at 7:00 pm. On Sunday, December 25, we will gather at 11:00 am for a service of Nine Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion. Both services will be held in the sanctuary and available to stream on Facebook Live.

Upcoming Commemorations

December 3 Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

December 4 John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, *The Fount of Wisdom*, remained influential for centuries.

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.

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.

December 13 Lucy, martyr, died 304

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

December 14 John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

December 16 Las Posadas (LLC)

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

December 20 Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

December 26 Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

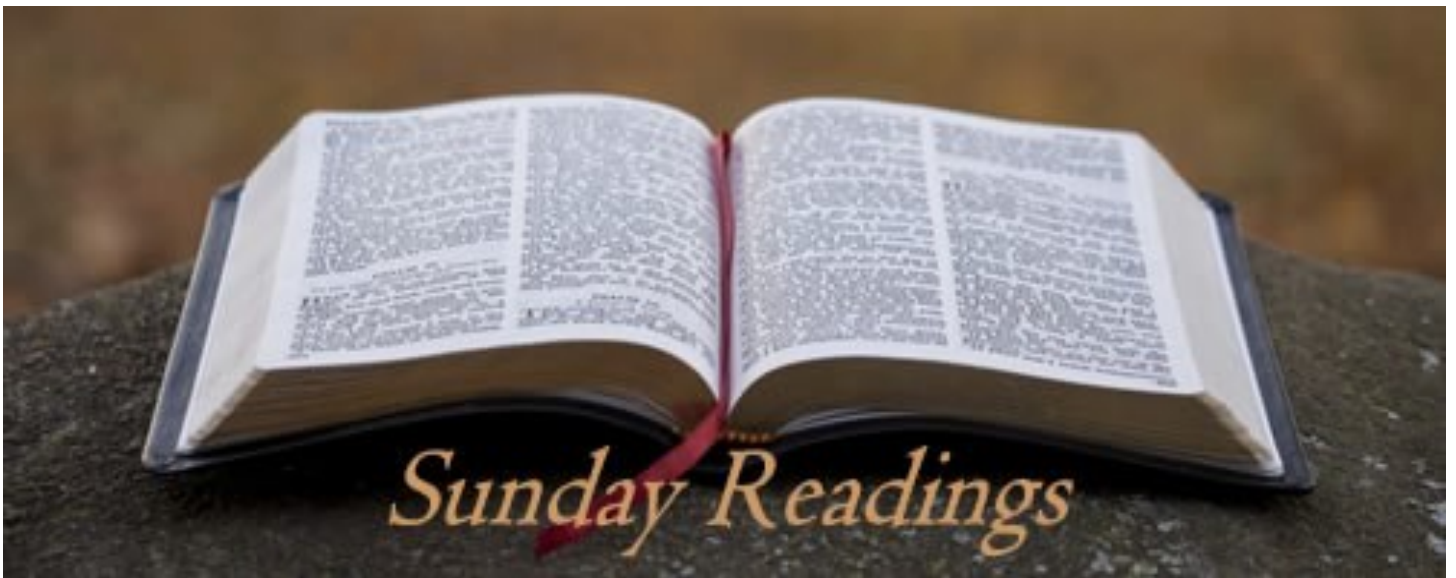
Upcoming Commemorations (continued)

December 27 John, Apostle and Evangelist

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

December 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.



December 4

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

December 11

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
Luke 1:46b-55 (alternate)
James 5:7-10

December 18

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

December 25

Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for:

Family of Charlotte Baldwin

Rose Denzin

Erin Lannin

Ron and Chong Brauer

Joyce Smalley

Angelina DeWent

Stephanie Joyner

Mike Scott

Freddie Clark

Judy Jenkins

James Taylor

Nilgul Taylor

Laura King

Bill Maloy

December 2022 Sunday Servants

December 4

Assistant: Kelly Glow

Lector: Dave Barkdoll

Ushers: John Shaw and Larry Egas

Counters: Beverly and Mark Rettig

Cleaners: Susan Sparrow

December 11

Assistant: Debbie Lundell

Lector: Shelia Kelley

Ushers: John Shaw and Tony Kelly

Counters: Judy Barkdoll and Vickie Pace

Cleaners: The Egas Family

December 18

Assistant: Mark Rettig

Lector: Conrad Busch

Ushers: Dave Barkdoll and Ed Joyner

Counters: Paul Egas and Barbara Little

Cleaners: The Kelley Family and Barbara Little

December 25

Assistant: Mary Shulak

Lector: David Ludley

Ushers: Mark and Beverly Rettig

Counters: Beverly and Mark Rettig

Cleaners: The Barkdolls and Vickie Pace

Pastor Vacation Days

The Church Office will be closed December 26—January 2. Pastor Robb will be taking vacation days. If there is an emergency that requires pastoral attention such as an illness or hospitalization, please call Pastor Robb on his cell phone. For all other needs, please call the church and leave a voicemail.

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 AA 9 am
4 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am	5 Al-Anon 12 pm	6	7 Bible Study 7pm <i>In person and on line</i>	8	9	10 AA 9 am
11 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am	12 Al-Anon 12 pm	13	14 Bible Study 7pm <i>In person and on line</i>	15	16 Gathering 11 am	17 AA 9 am Children's Craft Fair 11am-1pm
18 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am	19 Al-Anon 12 pm	20	21	22	23	24 AA 9 am Christmas Eve Service 7pm
25 Worship 11 am	26 Al-Anon 12 pm Deadline for newsletter submissions	27	28	29	30	31 AA 9 am
1 Worship 11 am Pastor Katie presiding	Pastor Vacation Days The Church Office will be closed December 26—January 2. Pastor Robb will be taking vacation days. If there is an emergency that requires pastoral attention such as an illness or hospitalization, please call Pastor Robb on his cell					